# MISSION ONE ELEVEN

## the core

**By**

**KARL HARGESTAM**

JOSHUACAMPAIGN
INTERNATIONAL

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**"...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."**

**(Daniel 11:32 KJV)**

# Dedication

*To all pioneers whom God has called! Be strong, do great exploits, go where no one has gone. Give one chance for every person!*

*— Karl Hargestam*

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# Foreword

Four years ago I would have never imagined that I could take a flight overseas, a helicopter into the jungle, and preach the Gospel to a nomadic people group that lived as though they were sent from the past. I was just out of college, recently saved, and in search of how I could give my life to serve God. I had attempted to serve in several ministries but I still felt the impression that Jesus wanted more. During this trial period, I was given a book that began to reveal information about "unreached" people, people groups with no sure Gospel foundation, no church, and ultimately no Savior. This was unreal to me; there are still people who have not heard about Jesus Christ? He had radically changed my life, yet there were others who haven't had a chance to experience a relationship with Jesus? Soon afterward, I had heard about Mission One Eleven, a mission organization that trains young adults to become missionaries and then sends them overseas to share the Gospel with unreached people. What was interesting was that this organization was within reach. It was offered in the local church setting to anyone willing to give up their time, job, and energy for three months. These three months were to be given strictly to Jesus and His Assignment, to give everyone a chance to respond to the Gospel. This had to be the more that Jesus wanted, that I was hoping for.

Mission One Eleven was founded by Karl Hargestam. He spent several years in pioneer missionEthiopia focusing on sharing the Gospel with unreached people. His experiences during these years have led him to the truths that are included in this book. Truths that revolve around God's Assignment, that every tribe, tongue, and nation be represented in the blood washed church of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 5:9) Truths

that are often times lost in the mission of the local church. The Great Commission was given two thousand years ago yet today there are over two billion people who have not heard about Jesus Christ. Even greater, there are still people groups who have no Gospel effort being made among them at all even though we have been able to pinpoint these tribes and have the means (helicopters) to reach them.

The teaching of this book revolves around God's assignment, unreached people groups, and storytelling. These three topics offer insight and direction about God's Assignment, who can take part in it, and how we, the church, can effectively finish it. The book also includes the basic stories used to effectively share the Gospel to unreached people, who are often times oral learners. These teachings, time and time again, instill a great desire and urgency among believers to reevaluate their service to God and bring it into alignment with the Great Commission.

I hope that you enjoy this book and allow God to stir your heart towards playing a pivotal role reaching the unreached people groups of this world. Whether you are a church member, pastor, or just plain interested there is information and opportunity for you in your respective positions included in this book.

Sincerely,

Matthew Petrissans, Executive Director of Mission One Eleven

# Our Vision:

## "One Chance for Every Person."

It should be a birthright for every person to have a chance to respond to the Gospel. According to God's Word, this Gospel *will* be preached as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come (Matt. 24:14). However, it is also clear in Scripture that Jesus will be return is imminenting soon even if the "day or hour' is not known. . These two truths should compel us greatly to take action and to do our part in finishingfulfilling the Great Commission, that every tribe, tongue, and nation will be represented in the blood washed church of Jesus Christ (Rev. 5:9) Mission One Eleven's purpose is to raise up a generation of laborers committed to reaching the unreached—people who have not had a chance, or at least an adequate chance, to respond to the gospel. There are roughly 2.8 billion people who have still not had a chance to respond to the gospel.

### Who We Are:

Mission One Eleven is a turnkey missions program that will excite and energize your congregation for missions work. The structure is already established, set up, and easy to implement in you're own church or school. It gives the local body of Christ full participation in completing the Great Commission of reaching "every tribe and nation" with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Mission One Eleven strengthens and complements your existing missions program by empowering you to send your own people to reach the unreached tribes throughout the world. In

return, this experience greatly raises the passion and call towards mission work throughout your congregation.

## The Solution:

We have developed a very effective 12-week program that consists of six weeks of training and six weeks among an unreached tribe. Our goal is to present this program to the local church body to enable them to personally reach the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1) We would like to **partner with you** and your congregation to raise up laborers to take part in and run the program.

2) We are not selling our program but rather **providing the structure and initial resources** required to run your own missions program.

Upon partnering, all the resources necessary to help you begin training your own congregation and providing for them an opportunity to reach the unreached are yours to implement along with our help. The goal is that people from your own congregation would rise up to carry on the program within your church or school by training the next set of students and sending them out. Also, we believe that from this opportunity, some will return with clarity of a full-time call and a path should be provided for them to pursue full-time mission work.

## Our Method:

1) Provide material to run an intensive 6-week training course focused on unreached people.

2) Locate an unreached tribe and send teams in to share the gospel and begin discipleship.

3) Provide avenues in order to help students fulfill their call towards full-time missions work.

## Your Part:

1) Review the covenant and sign.

2) Receive your MOE School in a Box with all the materials required to run the program.

3) Recruit a team that wants to run the program alongside our certified representatives.

4) Promote the vision and program to gain support from your congregation and possible applicants before the training begins.

5) Prepare for the training alongside our certified representatives.

## The Results:

Mission One Eleven's success is evident in the returning students who want to share their experience and continue to devote their time and energy toward missions, and in particular, unreached people. They return with a world perspective and heart for lost souls as they declare how God worked mightily through them to present the gospel to a lost tribe. The best part is that they are returning to your church or school helping to prepare, energize, and mobilize others for the Great Commission.

MOE Core Teaching
By Karl Hargestam, MOE Founder

# The Assignment: People Who Change History – Lesson 1

Welcome to the class, The Assignment. We are first today going to look at people who change history. We believe—I believe—that God has an assignment for every person as they reconcile with Jesus. The second most asked question is, "What is God's purpose, or His assignment, for my life?

We're going to explore this and today, first, I want to try to prove to you that connecting with your assignment is going to change not just your life, but the lives of everyone around you. That will be true for any church, any movement—but also for you as an individual.

So, as we look at the assignment, today, I want to try to prove first in this class that the people who connect with their assignment become the people who change history. So in this first class we're going to look at three things that we think many times, I believe, are standing in the way of connecting with your assignment and causes you not to connect with it. How are you going to find it and become a history maker? So the people that change history we believe—I believe—connect with their assignment. In this first segment I want to explore the number one thing. I'm going to look at the story from the book of Ezra. Throughout God's scripture, you have this amazing truth that God's people, in

both the Old and New Testament, journeyed and God saved them. He had to plan, like the people of Israel in captivity, that were saved from slavery but really also with an assignment to take the promised land. Or, you know, God had an assignment to do something: conquer a land or rebuild a temple. So I'm going to look at today, first, the story that's found in the book of Ezra, the book of Nehemiah, and the book of Haggai. God's people were in captivity, they were in Babylon, and God saves them from this, but he also gives them an assignment. This assignment is found in the first chapter of the book of Ezra, Ezra 1:3. They are in captivity and the King, Cyrus the Great, speaks to them and he says, "I have an assignment for you. I want you to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the house of the Lord." This became the assignment. In the new covenant, in New Testament context, God's assignment for the people of God is to build a new house of God. That's not out of brick and mortar of stone, but as we believe the Bible says we are living stones fitted together making the house of God. Jesus is the chief cornerstone and every tribe, language, people, and nation will be fitted in that house of God that we are to build. That is the assignment Jesus left with the people, his disciples. He said, "Go preach the gospel to every person. Make disciples of all nations." I believe that assignment is not finished. I'm inviting you to be a part of that, and we're going to explore what that means, how you can connect with it, and how it can change your life.

Here, now, today, first… Then the question becomes, why are people not connecting, or finding the assignment? You might even sit and look at this and say, "I want to find my assignment, I want to connect with it." The question then becomes, why is God not interested in you finding your assignment? I believe God wants you to find your

assignment even more than you, but how do you journey or discover it? One of the things that keeps us from finding it is that we don't feel qualified. We think, "Man, I don't have any gifts, I feel this dream God has in my life, but maybe I can't connect with it. I don't have the talents or I am not whole enough." There may be many reasons why we don't connect.

In the story of Ezra when God speaks to the people, what is interesting is that here are God's people—they are in Babylon, they're looking at captivity and here comes good news. God speaks to them and says, "Anyone who considers himself to be belonging to God may go out to Jerusalem and build a house of the Lord." Think about it. The assignment was to build a temple of Solomon; it is not like God was picky about the building project. He didn't give measurements, or what materials to use; He didn't instruct that the temple had to be built in a specific way. He didn't say, "I want masons, I want special builders. I want the ones that have the right skills, they're the only ones qualified." In fact, God was saying that the qualification was that if you consider yourself belonging to God, you can go to Jerusalem. The point is, if you are washed in the blood of Jesus, if you are saved, you are qualified for your assignment. That is the basis for qualification. Today I want you to look at this. So many times we are measuring, feeling, deciding whether we can respond to God's assignment based on thinking, "Am I somehow whole enough? Do I have the gifts I need to fulfill God's assignment?" The qualification, the basis that God looks to you for, is, "Are you a child of the King? Are you a child of God?" That's what makes you qualified.In our journey trying to explore what God's assignment is, a big challenge for many is going to unreached tribes and unreached people and looking at the tribes that have not heard the gospel, that are not connected with

God's plan for their lives. Every time we come to an unreached place or an unreached tribe we find this. It is not that they don't want to hear the Gospel or respond when someone comes, but it's always been, somehow, this idea that no one has come, so God's assignment that has been given has been not completed because the people have somehow have not responded to it. So when we talk about God's assignment, I believe it is like the following story.

I lived in Africa for a time, and if you have been to a car repair shop in Africa, you know that they can sometimes be a mess. You are lucky if the car is running when you get it back. So I had a clutch and the car was not running right, so I brought it into the shop and I just wanted a new clutch. Most of the time they can't even find spare parts for it, but when I return a week later to pick up the car, the garage owner meets me at the door and he's very excited and says, "Oh, car! We have done something great." I enter the shop to take a look and they have changed a dent that was on the side. The owner continues showing me other things he has done, like he changed a light and there was a fender that he fixed.

He listed other things he had done for me and I ask, "Okay great, can I take the car? Is it fixed?"

"Oh no!" he says. "We haven't changed the clutch yet." So the point is, they hadn't done their assignment! The assignment was to change the clutch. The car still couldn't drive anywhere.

So when it comes to connecting with God's assignment for your life, even when it comes to the church, reaching unreached people, it doesn't matter if we do good things—the assignment is what's important: to

discover, to find, and to journey. We're going to talk about this, how that – I believe – unlocks grace, favor and blessing over your life."

[7:58] Questions & Discussion

**People Who Change History – Lesson 1 Review:**

- God has an assignment for EVERY person.The people who change history connect with their assignment.The story of Ezra, salvation, and assignment (Ezra chapter 1).The assignment: build the new house of God, souls, people, tribe, and tongue.The problem: this assignment is NOT finished.God desires us to find our assignment.The problem: We DON'T FEEL QUALIFIED (for numerous reasons).ANYONE who considers himself a child of God can build (qualifications don't matter).If you are saved, you are qualified. Qualification is dependent upon the effectiveness of the blood.In Ezra, the people were called even in their captivity still.Good things in light of the assignment do not matter. Resources: Ezra 1.Additional Resources: 2 Cor. 5:17, Rev. 1:5, Rom. 6:18 and 8:2.

# The Assignment: People Who Change History – Lesson 2

In this lesson we are continuing on people who change history. We discussed not feeling qualified and overcoming that feeling, and discovering what the assignment is in your life. I can't stress enough that connecting with God's assignment in your life and how that will set you up for success is the greatest adventure you will ever journey. It is that Plan A God has for your life.

But as we continue now, we continue in the book of Ezra. We're going to keep unfolding that story that God has, because I believe it's so much truth. God's people were in captivity. They were saved and they belonged to the Lord, but called them in captivity for this great assignment: building, and rebuilding, the temple in Jerusalem. As we discussed in Lesson 1, this does not mean to build brick and mortar buildings, or that you have to be a great mason. That may be God's plan for your life, but I'm speaking more about the type and shadow truth of the new covenant assignment God has for the church. What does it mean, even for the Church today? This is what we keep driving and teaching.Jesus gave this assignment to the church two thousand years ago—go and make disciples of all nations, preach the gospel to every person. We believe that this is Jesus's only assignment given to the church. There are many great teachings, and we're separating sometimes this, from good teaching and assignment, there's many things we are to do following God's word, but the assignment of building God's house: we are living stones that fit in together, Jesus is the chief cornerstone, include every tribe, language, people, nation—still not finished. This is what we talk about in this assignment. Now in order to become people

who change history, this lesson will show you how God set his people up to be history makers. It's interesting that when God called upon the people as they were in captivity, he spoke to them and he said, "Here is the assignment: go and build the temple in Jerusalem." He spoke that in chapter 1, verse 3: "If you are considering yourself belonging to the Lord, go and build the temple." That was spoken in the midst of them being in captivity (the Babylonian people were not the nicest in the world). Scholars have different opinions on the exact number, but approximately three million people came out of Egypt. Some died in the desert, some were killed, some were taken but still in captivity. But there were many people in captivity in Babylon when God's call came to the people. He said to all of them, "Any one of you, if you consider yourself being a child of God, you are qualified." So think about that. Good news. They're all qualified. God's call came to all.

Now, how many people do you think responded to God's call? When I read it the first time it was like a "wow" experience. When we look at the assignment God has when it comes to unreached people, when it comes to finishing the assignment to every tribe, language, people, and nation hearing the Gospel, it's been difficult to understand why more people don't say yes to God's call in so many ways. As you read in chapter 2, verse 64 the continuation of that story, it tells us the full number. It says 42,360 people said yes to God's call. Later in the book of Ezra a second exodus, a second group of people, says that they will go. But it's interesting that in chapter 1, it's only 42,000 of say maybe a million plus. There were only 42,000 who said yes. Why is that?

I looked at this and I believe many times as we struggle with finding the journey, the call God has, we know God's favor is in our life. God's favor is present whether we are in captivity or not. You know we can

follow and see Joseph as he was in slavery or in prison, but God's favor still was on him.

So here we know even in the story why they were in Egypt, God's people—they had such favor that they became a threat to the Egyptians. God's favor can be in the form of big houses and nice cars—I'm not against any of it, it's awesome that God's favor is in our lives—but God's blessing sometimes causes us to be so comfortable so in the midst of our good lives, that we miss God's call when it comes. His assignment is being given. I want you to build a temple. I envision them thinking, "What is for me in Jerusalem? How am I going to survive? There's malaria, it's dangerous, it's difficult." So the choice becomes not whether or not I should serve the Lord. The choice is not really whether I am going to abandon God, but rather the choice is between favor in captivity and God's call. I believe that this is one of the biggest challenges. For example, many people from the book of Ezra stayed, and their descendants are still living in Iran. The biggest minority is Jewish people, from this time. They didn't say, "I want to become a Muslim," or "I want to abandon being Jewish." The challenge is God's assignment, saying yes to His plan. Sometimes we choose favor in captivity, rather than God's assignment.

## Questions & Discussion

*What might be your temptation in not responding to God's assignment or plan? (Reference Ezra 2:64.)*

What might be your temptations, not responding to God's assignments, his plan? What might be the favor that is sometimes in your life that causes you to wrestle with obeying God's assignment or calling

in life versus what is difficult to give up? Is it difficult to say yes and abandon or leave?

*Favor in captivity vs. The Assignment—do you have something to give up?*

As you've been exploring now favor in captivity vs. God's assignment in your life, I want you to look at what could that be in your life. What is it that is difficult for you to give up? Write down a couple of those things, pray over them and, versus the assignment, is that something that you wrestle with?

**People Who Change History – Lesson 2 Review:**

- God's assignment sets you up for success, favor, the Plan A from God.Ezra: God calls the people in captivity.Make disciples of all nations, tribe, and people Jesus's ONLY Assignment.The assignment was given to ALL his people while STILL in captivity.Only 42,000 out of possibly millions responded to the call.God's favor is on His children, even while in captivity, but this blessing can cause us to become comfortable.We don't naturally want to not serve God; we would just rather be comfortable than respond to the call.

# The Assignment: People Who Change History – Lesson 3

Welcome, again, to The Assignment. We continue with the class People Who Change History. Now, as we've been exploring being qualified, we believe that connecting with your assignment as you keep talking about it, either reading this segment or in the Book of Ezra, and we want to try to connect it further. Finding your journey in this, God's people, throughout God's book from cover to cover, are journeys about people discovering God's assignment and finding favor or becoming history makers. If you remember the last lesson, we ended with favor in captivity. You find you're qualified some struggle with favor in captivity, but if you notice in that passage as we start reading, the ones who did not choose favor in captivity and stayed in Babylon, but the ones who said yes and went to go build the temple, who were connecting with the assignment, they became the history makers. In fact, the people who stayed in Babylon, we never hear of again. They disappeared into oblivion, so we don't even know what happened. So the people that changed history, or God's story as it continues, were the people who connected with God's assignment.

As we continue today, I want you to notice when you read this passage later that in chapter 1, verse 5 in the book of Ezra, you will find there in the second part of that verse it describes the people who said yes to God's assignment. It says all the people whose hearts had been moved went to build the house of the Lord. Isn't that interesting? That God's call went out to everyone, but it was the ones who allowed their hearts to be moved by God's word who said yes, who set out to build the house of the Lord. So the story continues, those 42,000 people, they were the

history makers. I believe that you are here taking this class because you want to be a history maker. You want to connect with God's assignment.

Many times, we go on thinking it's going to be no problem, I'm done, I've said yes. It's not until now that sometimes the enemy wants to stop you from God's assignment. So now, the battle becomes a little bit different. You're not just overcoming your own qualifications, your own comfort in captivity and things that are more you—when you start journeying in God's assignment, it becomes more about the enemy trying to stop you.

So if you continue God's story, those 42,360, in chapter 4, verse 4, they're now building the house. They're in Jerusalem, they're doing the assignment. Sometimes we think, well now it's not going to be a problem. It's interesting that it is now that the battle has begun. So we're going to deal now in this lesson with fear.

The fear that we see many times come among our people, we think is some pie in the sky, some demon waking us at night or some other fear coming in danger…but what I want to look at today is that the fear can come disguised in the closest environment around us. It says in chapter 4, verse 4 that the people around them set out to discourage them from building. Why is that? It was not that they thought that something terrible was going to happen, rather it was more that they were saying things such as it is not a wise thing to build now, it doesn't make sense, maybe you shouldn't have made it, and now is not the time. It would be sometimes even good Godly counsel that would come and tell you why not to do it.

Let me tell you this story. It's very brief but it became a victory story for me. Years ago we worked to set up a festival in a very unreached town

called Galaborano, in southeast Ethiopia towards the Somali border. As we start working it, there were no believers. There were four hundred Christians in the whole county, the whole region. We worked with them, but in the beginning of the process, some terrible things happened to one leading man there, and fear gripped the people. Because one guy got killed and it was very dangerous, I received all kinds of counsel from people that now was not the time, we shouldn't do it, it's not going to work out. We'd wrestle with it but in fact, someone came really shaking me up, saying that maybe now was not the time. The Lord even spoke to our heart, "We've got to move forward, we've got to do this."

So we set out and said, "Maybe this is the time. We're going to obey the Lord. This is our assignment this time." As we started to prepare this festival in this town, God's favor just came in. In fact, he was a Muslim, the leader, but he would announce it in the mosques. He said they were going to give us the best square and he told the leaders of the mosques, "If something happens I'm not going to ask who did it, I'm going to hold you responsible." So we got free advertisement in every mosque in the region, saying, "these are good people, this is great." So we got free advertisement, not knowing really what happened.

The day of the festival, Ramadan broke and I remember our team praying in our hotel and we thought, "Wow. We don't know if anyone is going to be there. We don't know if even the Christians are too afraid." It was a sense of fear, but it was a lesson for me that time, that night. When we came up on that platform, I had never seen anything like it, even today. The square was fairly small but it was packed to capacity. I mean, with just four hundred Christians, it was a packed field of fifty, sixty thousand, maybe up to one hundred thousand—we don't know, we had no way to measure. They were on treetops, rooftops—it was

packed. I remember thinking, "What am I saying to these people?" I said, "Jesus, he has something for you. I'm just here to speak about him. You know of him as a prophet, as a teacher, but I believe more than all of that, he is going to be here tonight to touch people's lives."

That night, the first person to come up and testify, he was not a believer yet, but he came up and he testified and said, "I don't know what happened to me, but I was blind,"—he had been legally blind for twenty years—"I was blind but now I can see." He was a known businessman in that city and rumors started spreading throughout the city—is this magic or is Jesus alive? We prayed with so many people in that city to salvation. It became clear to me, that obeying God's assignment can change and turn cities upside down. God's favor will come in on your behalf. So, fear can come from the most unknown source, sometimes even good advice. Obeying God's assignment is what I want you to explore right now.

## Questions & Discussion

*What advice have you been given that may seem like wisdom but opposes God's Assignment?*Discuss what might be good advice that seems like wisdom that could be opposing God's assignment that you feel a call for. Your heart has been moved by God's voice and he's asked you to do something but you feel he is challenging you.

*Read Ezra Chapters 1-5. (Reference Ezra 2:62, 1:5, 4:4.)*I want you to read the whole passage now and look at the scriptures in the book of Ezra connecting to the story in both Nehemiah and Haggai. It's the same context, the same story. From God's call, chapter 1, verse 3, to God calling them (look at chapter 2, verse 62 where it says there are 42,360).

Look at chapter 1, verse 5 where it says the hearts were moved. They're the ones that obeyed God's call and read that connected to chapter 4 and the fear that came in. Read that and follow the journey and see that the history makers are the ones who became, the ones who changed the world, who the storyline is following. The ones who change history are the ones who connect with God's assignment.

*Explore the consequences of not finding God's assignment. What does it mean for us today?* Think about the people who made the choice between favor in captivity and the assignment. I want you to explore the real consequence of this. Think about it: the largest minority still today in Iran, which was old Babylon, is the Jewish people. Many believe they are the remnants of this. Could it be they disappeared into oblivion and the story of God, the history makers, are the ones who obeyed? I want you to look at that and discuss it. I also want you to look at what that means for us today. Is it true that God's story follows the ones that obey? What is his assignment in your life? I want you to write it down. I want you to explore a little bit more of your personal life, that intention, choosing sometimes between the expectations—I'm not saying that favor in captivity's only temptation is having a comfortable life. I believe we both know that many times it's not just how blessed we are; sometimes there are expectations around us. I'm expected to do this, or choose this path, or be this person. Sometimes the choice of favor in captivity is just staying where we're expected to stay versus following God's assignment. How would that translate into your life today?

**People Who Change History – Lesson 3 Review:**

- People discovering their assignment and changing history. The history makers left Babylon; those who didn't respond are never heard of again.Chapter 1:5 describes the type of people.The responders were those whose hearts were moved.Now as you say yes, there is a battle that the enemy is involved in to stop us.The battle has begun when you say yes.The enemy is not always a vibrant demonic character; don't exaggerate the enemy all the time.The people just discouraged the Israelites not to build: tried to instill FEAR. The enemy will use subtle attempts to instill fear and stop us from moving towards our assignment.Even "godly" counsel is presented to stop us from our assignment.But GREAT favor towards the assignment when we obey.Fear can come from the most UNKNOWN source.Additional Resources: Luke 12:1-11.

# The Assignment:
# Open Heaven – Lesson 1

Welcome back the The Assignment. Here we are going to be dealing with Open Heaven. We are going to look at three points that I want to make to you and that you are going to discuss throughout. What we are exploring is in connection to God's assignment for you and for your journey and even for the church. Is the released blessing or favor connected to the assignment? Your journey with the assignment changes a lot of your life. I've been exploring this, but today especially we're looking for Godly excuses. We're making the point to look for why we say we can't do it.

In the last couple of classes we looked at the journey of God's people in the book of Ezra: how God's people journeyed, that they were called, and how they overcame not feeling qualified and favor in captivity even maybe fear. So now, history makers, people that change history, we follow them through, we see theirs is the one God's is following. Now, continuing their story, I'm going to explore the same people, the people of God in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Haggai.

We're going to look more in Haggai today. As we look at this, note that sometimes you might ask yourself the question, "Why am I not seeing God's favor, provision, or all that I have?" For example, for me, this has been a point that I have struggled with many times, whether coming from a point of ministry, whether in Africa or Indonesia, where we see enormous seasonal harvest. If you think of harvest or sowing as

being one definition of God's assignment, well we used to see amazing harvests. At our gospel festivals, people came not just in thousands or tens of thousands, but in hundreds of thousands so we see such things... cities upside down. Now in that, coming back sometimes, exploring what we're doing here, I'm not suggesting that we're not doing things, or sometimes great things.

But what is interesting is that in comparison to what we have a resource, I believe every pastor, leader, evangelist, and even most Christians want to see America saved. We want to see God do something. Or Sweden saved, or Canada saved, wherever you are in the world. But sometimes it seems like with all the resources we have—bible schools, books, classes, television, Christian radio—we have so much and most is designed to be effective, to see harvest. We buy books that say read this book, get this key, and God is going to do these things for you. Sometimes I'm at a bookstore, reading the titles and thinking, "Wow, for all the things Jesus promised me, I have to buy the book and get the key so I can get it!" But maybe there is something else missing, and I want to explore that today.

It's interesting that in the book of Haggai, chapter 1, God's word speaks and describes God's people in this moment in chapter 6 as having this debate, this dilemma, this challenge. It says they are planting much but not harvesting, they are eating but are not satisfied, they are dressed but they are not warm, they earn wages but it's like putting them in a purse with a hole in it. What is this saying? It's describing not a lazy people, not a people who don't want to see a harvest. Think about it, if a farmer watches, you know that if you want to see harvest, you plant. If you want to see much harvest, you plant much so that the description is obviously that these people want to see harvest. They want to see big

harvest. They work for it, they planted much. But the Bible says they didn't get much harvest, it didn't happen. Why is that? It paints a picture of God's people struggling with this truth of "I'm working, I want to see it, but I don't see that favor. I don't have God's blessing. I don't have an Open Heaven over my life, or my ministry, or my church." Today, in this Assignment teaching, we want to look at what that is.

I want to start today with this storyline because God's people came out of Ezra—they had overcome not feeling qualified and favor in captivity, so we're following the actual people who changed history, that God's story follows. So in the book of Haggai now, they're working the assignment. They're building the temple, they're even, fear is maybe what causes them to put it down. But think about it, these are the history makers that God's word is speaking to: planting much but not seeing big harvest, but well intentioned. In chapter 1, verse 2, God's word speaks to them and says, "This is what God's people say, the time has not yet come to build the house of the Lord." So some godly excuse, some human wisdom saying, it's not time now. Maybe later…I can't tell you how many times I hear people say, "it's not time." I understand that sometimes things happen in God's timing, but I'm saying in this story sometimes we use godly excuses not to obey God's assignment in our life.

## Questions & Discussion

*What godly excuse are you using? Is there something you feel God has called you to, but someone has counseled to wait or not do it?*

The questions I want you to ask in this is, "What are some godly excuses we sometimes use to feel cold?" I'm not in any way suggesting

that we are not to follow godly counsel and it is in his time, God's timing, many times. But what is it that God's doing? And you would only know, in your heart, in your life, or in your church or whatever context that is, you feel God's call or compelling; he's moved your heart but still there are counselors and people in your life advising it's not time or some other godly excuse standing in the way.

*Action*I want you to take the time to read the whole chapter 1 of the book of Haggai and get familiar with that passage.

**Open Heaven – Lesson 1 Review:**

- The released blessing or favor connected to God's Assignment.We look for godly excuses as to why we cannot do it.The book of Haggai.Why am I not seeing provision/harvest?We want to see our country saved but with all our resources to help us be successful we still see little harvest—why?In Haggai, planting much but reaping little.The people in Haggai are not lazy, they are working for a great harvest but the problem is (Ch. 1:2) the people say the time has not come to build the temple of God.The use of a Godly excuse to not obey God's assignment.Resources: Haggai.

# The Assignment: Open Heaven – Lesson 2

We are now in The Assignment continuing with Open Heaven. We were exploring godly excuses and how God's people were having a good excuse in the book of Haggai, saying now is not the time. Connecting it to God's assignment in your life, and how that can unlock favor and blessing and even seeing how God's people in this story, continues. Remember, again, these were the history makers. They were doing amazing things, they were saying yes, their hearts had been moved. They set out to build God's house, being in his assignment. Still somehow it says they were planting much, their intention was to harvest but still they were not seeing it. Planting much, harvesting little. Eating, but not being satisfied. Having clothes, being still cold.

So the picture I see is that I used to sometimes come to America or Europe and I see all the resources, the things we have, and we're working but our churches are still on decline and it looks like while we're working we're seeing this almost true, but we're not seeing the amazing things that maybe we could. I'm just saying that sometimes it may be connected to a similar, parallel truth to this story.

The story continues as they have given their excuse. They say now is not the time. God's word continues speaking to them and I want you to look at this segment. Sometimes in our life we are, even though we set up and say yes, in our journey working with the Lord, walking with him wanting to do his assignment, and it sometimes still causes us still to stop, to pause, and our priorities on what is important become mixed up.

Again, they had left Babylon, left captivity and said yes to the assignment. But now in the midst of this God's word comes and says, "Now this is what you're saying, that now is not the time?" Then in verse 9 he continues to speak, he's even saying, "What you've brought home, I blew it away." This is interesting to me… the statement that God is making is that the enemy, to their favor or harvest or their being warm or satisfied is not connected to the enemy. The Lord is saying, "I am the one that is blowing it away." I find it interesting, but this is what the Lord is saying: "What you have brought home, I've blown it away."

And then in verse 9, answering himself, he says, "Because of my house. Because of my assignment. My house still in ruins, not finished." Think about it in the context of worldwide. Jesus gives this to the church two thousand years ago, and says go preach the gospel to every person. Go make disciples of every nations, tribe, language, people, nation—living stones fitted together in that wonderful house, Lord Jesus the chief cornerstone. That house is also not finished. So he is saying, "Because my house is still in ruins, I blew it away, while you're busy building your own house." So what is he saying? Wrong priorities. You're focusing on your own houses, while my house, my assignment, is not a priority. Wrong priorities, even while you said yes to the Lord, can cause drought in your life and ministry. It is interesting to me that somehow, that is what God is referencing, as why even he is even blowing away what they bring home. Or why they are planting much but not harvesting, even though they plant. Or why dressing, but not warm. Or eating but not satisfied. Or somehow earning wages but there's a hole in their purse. It's not that it's wrong to harvest or have or eat or be warm, it's somehow that the priorities were wrong and that causes God to not breathe favor or blessing over what they're doing.

I want you to take time now to think through what is in your life important. What are the priorities? What has God in your heart asked you to do and what sometimes causes you to put other things before what God is asking you to be a part of and do? I even want you to discuss this in context of the global church. Think about mission. I want you to think about mission because we're talking about average people a lot in mission and this is what we're passionate about. Every tribe, language, people, nation. Could it be that sometimes our priorities are more about building our houses here or wherever we are home, than God's assignment?

## Questions & Discussion

*Do we have wrong priorities in our own personal life or in world missions?*Explore what you think could sometimes be the wrong priorities in your personal life and also in world mission. Could it be that sometimes maybe that it is the reason why we don't see harvest here at home?

*Could it be that tribes don't want to be reached?*

Is it that every tribe, language, people, nation don't want to hear the Gospel or cannot be reached with these resources? Let me just add some statistics that I want you to go find. Go to Joshuaproject.net. Find some of the listings of unreached people groups. There is also information that lists the resources used within the church. Within the church of resources used only 5% is going to mission. Of the 5%, only .02% goes to reaching unreached people. Could that maybe reflect wrong priorities?

**Open Heaven – Lesson 2 Review:**

- The church has all its resources and desires harvest but their priorities are not always Biblical.Even after saying yes to fulfilling the call, our own priorities of what is important can get in the way."What you brought home, I (the Lord) blew away NOT the enemy." Why? Because my assignment is not yet finished while you are focusing on your own house. Our own priorities in life or in ministry can cause the Lord to blow our resource away.Our wages are going into pockets with holes in them.Our own priorities cause God's favor to not be there.Resources: Haggai.

# The Assignment: Open Heaven – Lesson 3

Welcome back. Today we are continuing with The Assignment, Open Heaven. We're exploring how God's assignment in your life is also connected to God's favor. I believe this is true not just for you as an individual, in your journey of being a history maker, but is also connected to maybe your church or maybe a denomination, a group of churches and fellowships. Connecting with God's assignment, his purpose for you, is what I believe the stories start painting a picture of… releasing and connecting God's resources to what you're doing.

We've heard it many times—people will make those statements, you get to mission or you do this and God will bless you or you maybe get harvest at home and you start quoting Bible verses, you know we throw our bread on the water and it returns home, but I don't want to make an overemphasis on those kind of statements. I want to keep looking at what it can mean for you personally. As we find God's assignment we have excuses, we have temptations for putting it down. We maybe have wrong priorities, as we discovered before. God's people certainly fall into those traps sometimes, and we can find it in God's word. So when they do, it's obviously potential that we do the same.

In fact, I find that all those types of stories when I follow the book of Ezra or Haggai. What has become true for me is, I look at it and see that many times this is what God's people struggle with today. These are good lessons for you to learn how to navigate God's journey for you, and see sometimes the traps that they fall into. Having wrong priorities, having good and godly excuses—we see that it's not that their intention

was not good. They planted much and wanted to see great harvest, but did not. They ate but were not satisfied, were dressed but not warm. How can that connect?

In this story, in Haggai, again they were really the history makers who set out to change the world. They were the ones saying yes; their hearts were moved. Now they're in working the assignment and their priorities get wrong; they have some excuses why they need to do this. Yet, again, no one with a good heart saying I want to serve the Lord is also saying, "I want to disobey God." You would say, "Of course I want to be obedient." So we have these godly excuses.

Here, as God is saying, "What you brought home I blew away. My house, my assignment, is still in ruin, not finished, while you're busy with your own house." God continues to say, "I call in a drought on the fields, on the oil, on the wine, whatever it is the ground produces." It's speaking of a drought that comes from God's people because of their wrong priorities.

But when we follow this story, the prophet Haggai comes on the scene. He is now declaring on them saying, "This is what God is saying. You've planted much but harvested little." As they hear this, what it's saying is they are repenting. They turn around, they start building the house of the Lord again. In fact, it causes God's people to put down what they were doing, their selfishness, wrong priorities, the excuses, and they started to build the house of the Lord again.

As they start building the house, we have this famous passage in chapter 2, verse 8-9, and the Lord is making strong statements: "Once again I will shake the heavens for you. I will open a window of heaven. I will do something great. I will bless you again." It's interesting to me

that this quote is connected to God's people repenting and returning to the assignment.

In the story, God is saying this after prophet Haggai said, "You are becoming selfish, you're building your own houses." My house, the assignment I gave you, you're not doing. After they return to the assignment, that is when God is saying that. So what am I suggesting here today? I'm suggesting that if you want to see favor over your life, church, your fellowships, connect with God's assignment. Because it is clear to me in the scripture that God's favor very much comes to harvest and blessing, and supernatural harvest especially is connected to walking, working God's assignment.

That is what Jesus said, "Seek first my kingdom and all others will be added." It's connected to the story, God saying, "Pursue me! Pursue me! Pursue my assignment and you will see that I will bless you, open a window to heaven." So what God is declaring over the people as they said, "Here we're ready to connect with you" is Him saying, "I will open a window of heaven for you. I will shake heavens for you. The silver is mine the gold is mine."

## Questions & Discussion

*Are there areas in your life or ministry that you haven't seen much fruit or harvest?*

Ask yourself this question: "What is it that God is challenging you with through theses classes that will cause you to ask yourself why you've been planting much but not seeing harvest? Maybe my priorities are wrong, maybe I need to return to that assignment and see God open a window to heaven over me."

*Is there a clear connection with building God's house and our New Testament Assignment?*

I want you to explore, as you read Haggai chapter 2, that now the journey of God's people, the history makers, was about the working assignment, but also, is there a clear connection to building God's house or is the assignment of building the church connected to his new covenant with the church?

**Open Heaven – Lesson 3 Review:**

- God's assignment is connected to God's favor in your life. This is also so for churches or denominations.Follow the traps seen in the Old Testament and see how they apply to our life or the church today.As God reveals the need for His house to built whereas the people are building their own so He has caused a drought.As the people listened to Haggai they REPENTED and began to build God's house again.Ch. 2:8-9, "Silver and gold are mine, I will bless you AGAIN, and I will open up the heavens."This is connected to repentance and connecting to God's assignment again. Connect with God's assignment for favor over our lives, the church, our fellowship.Resources: Haggai.

# The Assignment: Jesus Satisfied – Lesson 1

Welcome, we are continuing with The Assignment. We're talking about the question, Is Jesus Satisfied? Christer Ihreborg, a great friend and brother shed light on Isa 53 while we ministered together in Africa. Thinking about the assignment, being a history maker…we talk about the challenge in finding it, the blessing, harvest, and favor connected to it. I want you to see, how we connect with it and how Jesus looking at the assignment.Isaiah 53 paints a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross, that it was his, the Lord's, will that Jesus is bruised, and crushed, and verses 10 and 11 state that he will see the fruit of his labor and be satisfied. This is an intriguing thought that when I then look at my life—and ask yourself the same question—when he sees the fruit of labor in my life, is he satisfied? I then imagine him cut and bruised with the sins of the world on him and there he is seeing…what? He is seeing the fruit of labor of his suffering and he's satisfied.

What is he seeing? One translation says the seed of his suffering/ labor meaning he died for the sins of the world, but does it mean he sees fruit from every tribe, every language, people, and nation? Could it be he sees what John sees in the book of Revelation, chapter 7, verse 9, when he sees a great multitude dressed in white robes, because they have been washed with the blood of the lamb? There are people from every tribe, language, people, and nation. They are all represented there standing—is that the fruit of Jesus's labor? It is a number that no one

can count. Was it that Jesus saw and was satisfied? I start asking myself as we're pursuing people, what did Jesus see and was He satisfied? So is Jesus satisfied with 10 percent of our city? Or is it 20 percent? If we were today in Somalia we could list, maybe on a couple hands, the number of non-believers, as church is non-existent. Is that what Jesus saw and was satisfied? When Jesus saw fruit through your life, and the assignment that he called you to walk in, to work, to labor, I am certain that he saw something that caused him to smile and he was satisfied. What he saw was harvest, fruitfulness, people coming to know him. That you would be a salt, a light. Somehow the question of whether Jesus is satisfied is what assignment is going to make Him, while he's on the cross see fruit of his labor.

## Questions & Discussion

*If you stand before Jesus right now with the accomplishments of your assignment, would he be satisfied?*

What is your assignment, and what is Jesus seeing if he sees my life, if I stand before his throne. Is he satisfied? Is my life fruitful? Is this what Jesus saw, or is there maybe more to come.

*Action*

Take time also to read and become familiar with Isaiah 53.

**Jesus Satisfied – Lesson 1 Review:**

- Isaiah 53, Jesus on the cross (vs. 10-11). See the fruit of His labor and be satisfied.When Jesus sees the fruit (seed) of His labor in our lives is he satisfied?What does he see? Fruit from

every tribe, tongue, and nation. He sees a great multitude dressed in white. Was this what He saw?Is he satisfied with 10 percent of our city, 20 percent, 50 percent?What He sees in our lives when he called us was fruit, good labor, and a harvest.Reference possibly a discussion of Peter and Jesus's decision to call him to such a task even though he failed. Resources: Isa. 53.Additional Resources: Ps. 2, Rev. 5:9-10.

# The Assignment: Jesus Satisfied – Lesson 2

Welcome back, we're continuing with The Assignment—Is Jesus Satisfied? We're asking this as he's hanging on the cross. Jesus makes the statement that's been made of him, that he sees the fruit of his labor or the seed of his suffering and is satisfied. I believe when we look at that—and I connect this to every tribe, language, people, and nation represented in the blood-washed church of Jesus—we know he shed his blood for every tribe, language, people, and nation. In fact that's what Revelations 5:9 says, that He bought with his blood, men from every tribe, language, people, nations. So we know that somehow Jesus saw the fruit of his labor and was satisfied. That's why we're passionate about unreached people and passionate about the Assignment, for the church, mission, and you. Connecting with this I think you will discover what God has for you.

So with this class we want you to ask yourself, "Is Jesus satisfied with my life? The fruit I have. Is there maybe more he has for me?" What was Jesus's vision and what does it mean? We continue with this because I believe that he has planted big dreams in everyone. My brother Christer, from Sweden, had such a revelation about this subject and of what Jesus saw, that I think is really fate. It's important that when you walk in God's assignment, as you journey through God's plan for your life, you will always have this tension between two truths: God's plan, vision, dream, and our own dream, vision, and plan. We discovered earlier in the book of Ezra and Haggai that's the struggle between God's plans and our own plans. Are we satisfied with where we're at, favor in captivity—all of these decisions stem from this battle, the spirit and the flesh. It really

is this thought to connect them with God's plan or dream for you. It means you have to penetrate this, to connect this with God's dream for your life. Or seeing, envisioning, what is it that Jesus sees that you don't sometimes see yourself when you don't feel qualified.

Maybe you have a big dream, maybe that is what brought you the MOE, but how do you find, how do you explore that plan? I want to look at how that can be a struggle to pursue in the Assignment. So I want to look at Genesis chapter 12 and take this story and talk about Jesus being satisfied. We take the story of Abraham, the father of fate, and how the bridge between God's dream and our own is sometimes fate—you have to believe God has a big dream and pursue it by faith and you will see God unfold in that assignment for you. Abraham, in that passage, begins his journey with God calling him. He says, "I will use you. I will bless you. I will make you into a great nation."I don't know what God's big dream or plan for you is, but I know through my own journey in ministry that it cannot be fulfilled without God's strength. What calls you to come and explore God's assignment for you? Abraham got this big promise; you might have even had these prophetic words spoken over you. God's plan, God's call on you, but you feel unqualified you can't see it. Now we're here exploring this big dream. Now Abraham, he got this promise and if you follow this story, several chapters later in chapter 15, he's been journeying with the Lord and has seen good and bad and that happens to all of us. He's getting discouraged and his massive dream is now being challenged. God comes to speak to him and is encouraging, but Abraham can't fully receive it. My question is now, today, what is God's big dream for you? And is it that we sometimes put it down to feeling that maybe God's plan for my

life is not for now? We want to explore what God's big dream for you is. Have you put it on the shelf? This is the question.

## Questions & Discussion

*What is God's big dream for you? Is there a passion inside you that's hard to describe?*

What is God's big dream? What has he breathed in you and sometimes you don't have full words. It might be something that you just think about at night and don't even share with your closest friends. It might be somehow connected to God's call.

*Have you put your dreams on a shelf for a future time? Have you ever created a "back up" plan?*

Is it that some of you have put it on the shelf? That you've created a back up plan for how God can fulfill it when it seems impossible, instead of this dream coming to be how God intended?

**Jesus Satisfied – Lesson 2 Review:**

- Connecting the fruit of His labor to end time prophecy, His blood paid for people from every tribe, tongue, and nation.When you journey God's plan you will always have tension between His plans and our plans.To connect to God's plan you have to penetrate your plans or thoughts of being unqualified.How do you find God's dream for you?Gen. 12: God's promise to Abraham.The bridge to move you from your plan to His is…faith.The promise can never be filled in our own strength.Gen. 15, Abraham has

gone through discouragement and his promise is being challenged. God encourages him with a dream but yet Abraham says he can't see it and he has a back up plan to fulfill God's dream.Resources: Consider David being called and the time in between the call and fulfillment. Were there challenges, doubts, and difficulties?

# The Assignment: Jesus Satisfied – Lesson 3

Welcome back, we're still in The Assignment—Is Jesus Satisfied, and we're exploring the last segment, trying to tie together lots of thoughts about God's assignment over your life, what Jesus sees in you, what Jesus saw on the cross, the labor of His suffering and the fruit of His labor that will satisfy. What was that in your life that he saw that will satisfy him? I believe he saw great things, and we connected this with Abraham's story because he had a big dream, but even he struggled with finding faith to explore it and see it in reality.

Here we are finding and connecting to God's assignment. In the story of Abraham we ended with Abraham being frustrated. In the story in chapter 15, we know he was called early on, he was given word over Him that he was going to be a father over many nations. So he sets out, but seemingly he has lost faith, he has no child—the promise has not come to be, so he is discouraged. I love the thought that here in the discouragement, the Holy Spirit comes and whispers to him, "You are still the man! I still have a plan for your life!"

But Abraham, we see, is griping now saying "What are you going to do for me?" He is not obeying God. I love it because God's dream for your life is not dependent on you mustering up faith, but it is somehow connected to God's plan and he's going to help you discover your assignment and see that dream come to be. Here Abraham is discouraged so he comes up with this back up plan, thinking, "Well, maybe he will use my maid servant and I will have a child with her." But we know the

story, and that turned out to be a disaster for him, so even though is known as the Father of Faith, he didn't have great faith.

In the story, God calls Abraham out of the tent and says, "Come out!" So whatever ceiling, or limitation, or dwelling that he's in has caused the world he was living in and he had limited his ability to see God's plan. So God calls him out and says look at my ceiling and count the stars. So he starts counting the stars and he believes. The question for you today is, what is Jesus's plan for you? What is that passion that he has placed that you might have had since you were a child or since you were saved? You might not even share it, but it's big. Jesus sees that in you and saw it and was satisfied when he shed his blood, just for you.

I believe that if you could see how Jesus sees you, how he sees your dreams your assignment, there is nothing that could cause you not to walk it. As Abraham looked up at the stars he was told this how many your seed will be, as he started to count faith grew in his heart. Finding faith is sometimes seeing it the way God sees you or how Jesus saw you and was satisfied. So read Isaiah and see what Jesus saw in you: his assignment, his harvest. I believe he saw you changing the world and history makers, he didn't see you as a spectator, he didn't see you stand on the sidelines, he saw you change the world.

## Questions & Discussion

*Write down any dream that God has spoken or revealed to you.*

I want you to write down some of the dreams that God has spoken to you. Put words to some of the passion that you feel towards God's place, his dream, or his assignment as you define it today.

*Action*

What did Jesus see in my life, our church, our school, and was satisfied?

Pray over Isaiah 53:10.

Jesus, what did you see in this class and what we are doing with this tribe and were satisfied?

**Jesus Satisfied – Lesson 3 Review:**

- The struggle to find faith to journey God's plan for your life.In Abraham's discouragement, the Holy Spirit encourages him.Abraham at the time did not have great faith.You cannot muster up by your own strength the faith that will cause God's plan to be fulfilled.The world that Abraham lived in limited his ability to see God's plan.God says, count the stars.As Abraham started counting the stars faith started to grow.What is that big dream God has revealed to you, which Jesus is satisfied with.Finding faith is accomplished by seeing your life as Jesus sees it, there is harvest in your life.Resources: take time to pray over Isa. 53:10.

# Unreached:
# Unfinished Assignment – Lesson 1

Welcome to the Unreached class. Now we are going to explore in the next three lessons unreached people. This is my passion and, in fact, this is my assignment. I am convinced of it both speaking and teaching about it and for doing it. In this first lesson we will talk about the Unfinished Assignment. We are going to discuss what that means, and maybe you have already or are going to take The Assignment class, and that is more generally speaking about the assignment for you, the church. The Unfinished Assignment I am defining as the unreached people—the people who have never heard the Gospel. Our vision and our mission statement is, "One chance for every person." We think it should be a birthright for every person to hear the Gospel at least once in their life. We're talking about people walking their whole journey, from birth to the grave, never hearing the Gospel, never having the opportunity to say yes or no. We believe this opportunity is what we call "one chance for every person."

The Unfinished Assignment: it is a fact that there are people, in fact 2.7 billion (maybe 3 billion) people, who have never heard the Gospel. So when we talk about unreached people it is a really big subject. I do believe that it is Jesus's heart. I many times struggle with what this means. My quest in this unfinished assignment is, how do we find them? How do we reach them? Why are they not reached? The conclusion, for me, became that 1) Jesus didn't want them to be reached, or 2) we have

been disobedient or the church. Now, we will explore some of those thoughts and I'm going to ask some difficult questions.

But, today, to start what changed my life, I'm going to share my story. It was in the quest of searching for this truth that I had an experience. Biblically we have opinions, and all can make statements theologically looking at the statements, but this experience changed my life. I was flying in a helicopter looking for the unreached, surveying the border of Sudan and Ethiopia. We were flying over looking for tribes, mapping out where the Gospel had not reached. This is now a couple of decades ago, but this was one of those defining moments. I'm flying a helicopter there because I was wrestling with the question, why are they still unreached? Then every experience I had with them there, it was like they responded when someone came. Almost like they were asking the question, "If you knew we were lost without the Gospel, then why has no one come before?" It's difficult to answer, those questions, and I wrestle with it.

So we're flying, and I'm searching for unreached people and we're navigating—and again this was decades ago, so GPS was not a big deal. We're flying with bad maps and the Holy Spirit and we're praying on where to land. So there's me and a professor from Cornell University and we have a couple other brothers with us and we feel the Holy Spirit telling us to land. So we do and we see all these people coming to see this helicopter. The kids are pinching my skin thinking I'm sick because I was so white, so obviously there was not a lot of exposure to people looking like me. We realize after asking a couple of questions that no one here has heard the Gospel, that they have no reference even to God's story. When we introduce the gospel there, we use what we call chronological storytelling. They have no idea what the Gospel is so we can't just

quote a bible verse because they do not know what the Bible is, so we talk about God's story. But we then established that twenty-eight years ago, a man that looked like us, a missionary, walked through the land and shared some of God's story and stayed two nights. That's the only reference they had.

So we were sharing and saying we're here to talk about God's story if they want to hear it. After we had spoken for a while an elder, a leader, stands up in the back and says, "What about Jesus Christ?" We're shocked. We know he hasn't heard that name and ask where did you hear that name and he says, "Five days ago I had this dream. This shiny man comes to me and says five days from now people will come from the sky. He said listen to them and their teaching and it will set your people free." And we're thinking wow and then he says, "Then the shiny man, I asked him, 'Who are you?' He said, 'I am Jesus Christ.'" So now he is saying who is this Jesus Christ that said you would come. So I'm sitting there and this becomes this profound and defining moment for me. I realized that, of course, I loved the idea of Jesus announced my coming. That made me feel really special, but I realized it's not really me, that making me feel special is not the point. Jesus so loved these people. He shed his blood for his people, two thousand years ago, that for anyone that would go, he wanted to make a way or prepare for their coming. These people are really the heart of Jesus, and it changed the way I viewed pioneer work and unreached people.

So I want us to consider this somewhat, what this means. What is Jesus's heart? What he shed his blood for—every tribe, language, people, nation.

## Questions & Discussions

What is Jesus's heart when it comes to the unreached? What does Jesus mean when he said, "Go make disciples?"

I also want you to explore the idea of the unreached—do they have hope without the Gospel?

**Unfinished Assignment – Lesson 1 Review:**

- "One chance for every person."It should be a birthright for every person to have at least one chance to hear the gospel. There are still people today who have not heard the gospel, 2.7 billion estimated.Why are they still unreached?Karl's shiny man story.What is Jesus's heart concerning his blood shed for every tribe, tongue, and language?Resources: Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rom 1 and 2 (12-16).

# Unreached:
# Unfinished Assignment – Lesson 2

Welcome back the Unreached class we are now continuing with the Unfinished Assignment. We continue to explore the heart of Jesus, I hope you are getting a taste of it. For me it was life changing, but it's more than just an experience and I pray that you can see it through the scriptures in the bible. This is what Jesus died for, shed his blood for, loves. But we want to continue the discussion on UPG vs. UUPG (Unreached People Groups vs. Unengaged Unreached People Groups), because when you talk about unreached there are a couple things that are massive in statistics. People will throw around easily unreached: such as unreached in my neighborhood, unreached in our city, for sure unreached in the United States, Sweden…we have lots of unreached people and statistically almost three billion people unreached in the world. That's more than were alive when Jesus died on the cross, about one billion. Now that means that when Jesus died, there was not even close to a billion, and now we have three billion unreached out of seven billion living on the planet. So the change in that statistic is massive, meaning the assignment has grown. In one way it's like we're losing ground.

When we talk about unreached, we have them all around us and I want to separate them. I want to talk about the unreached people groups, the unengaged unreached people groups, meaning ethnicity, languages, peoples, tribes, nations that have not heard the Gospel. This means they do not have a representative or a church or people saved from that tribal language represented in that vision that John sees in the book of Revelations 7:9 or 5:9. That Jesus, with his blood, brought people from every

tribe, language, people, nation. If this is true, and we believe that this will be fulfilled, the challenge of unengaged, unreached people groups is massive. We believe that part of the three billion unreached, not that are among us where we live, but rather the unreached people groups that have never heard the Gospel once.

When we say unengaged, it became a way of singling in on this unfinished assignment of tribes and people who have yet not heard the gospel and is represented in the blood-washed church of Jesus. They are from their tribe, or language or ethnos not yet represented, they haven't heard. And there's no missionary, or bible translation, or radio, television, or script. They have no tools or Gospel witness among them. We call them unengaged. We believe that there are not that many left, we have a couple of lists that you can take time to look up. You have the finishthetask.org website, you have calltoall.org, and a couple of references that I want you to explore after this class and discuss. There are broad statistics presented by thejoshuaproject.net about all the unreached in the world, but then this unengaged unreached people groups that list is under 1,000 tribes and languages left on the planet. Some believe that many half of those 1,000 are even engaged. I want you to take time to pray about this, and consider whether we are called to do something about them. Or are you called to engage in unreached people groups? Is that something Jesus is asking of you? Our belief at Mission One Eleven is all about this, and this is going to be the question: What can we do about this list of unengaged unreached people groups?

## Questions & Discussion

Take a couple of moments, look up a few references:

- Joshuaproject.net
- Finishthetask.org
- Calltoall.org
- Peoplegroups.org

**Unfinished Assignment – Lesson 2 Review:**

UPG vs. UUPG.Three billion is more people than when Jesus died on the cross.There was not even one billion when Jesus died.Unreached are among us all.The focus UUPG (unengaged unreached): languages, tribes who have not yet heard the gospel.No church or people representing Jesus among them.No gospel witness among them at all.Part of the unfinished assignment is the UUPGs.There are not many left (maybe 1,000 tribes and maybe 500 engaged).Finishthetask.org.Calltoall.org. JoshuaProject.net.Peoplegroups.org.Are we called, and are YOU called to this problem?

# Unreached:
# Unfinished Assignment – Lesson 3

Welcome back to Unreached. In this lesson we are finishing the last segment of the Unfinished Assignment. We explore the heart of Jesus, also UUPG and what that means, and I want to take it a step further with the Unfinished Assignment. There is a belief that is connected with the scriptures where Jesus speaks of his second coming. His first coming was dying for the sins of the world, his second coming is spoken about in a couple of chapters. In Matthew 24, in the first verses Jesus walks with the disciples in the temple of Solomon. If we remember this from the first lesson, they are walking around his temple pointing out to Jesus how amazing it is. Jesus says, however, "Don't get excited about this building. Stay focused on what is important." So he is dismissing this temple because he came to build a new town or temple, a new house of the Lord of living stones fitted together from every tribe, language, people, nation, with Jesus the chief cornerstone.

He speaks about the day of the Lord and when his coming would be. They ask two things: when will this happen and what will be the signs of it happening? (Matt. 24:2). Here Jesus lists signs (birth pains, earthquakes, etc.), but I'm not focusing on them; what I ask is, is prophetic fulfillment important for believers? Especially when it comes to the Unfinished Assignment, is that something that is important and why?

Jesus makes a reference in verse 32, saying, learn a lesson from the fig tree. You see the tree bloom and you know that summer is near. Jesus says the same thing, when you see all these things happen then you

know its right at the door. However, he also makes the parallel statement that a thief comes when the owner is asleep; no one will know the day or the hour. Not the sun or the angels, only the Father. So obviously, it's not about the day or the hour, so why do we need to learn the lesson of the fig tree, and understanding prophetic fulfillment of the times? He continues speaking of parables and all seem to be connected to the assignment or us being the light of the world, being the church he asked us to be.

I summarize using verse 14, connecting it to the assignment Jesus left you and me: go now and preach the Gospel to the world, to every nation. Make disciples of all people. So what he says in verse 14 is that the testimony will be preached to all nations, then the end will come. So the prophetic fulfillment of the assignment is connected with Jesus coming. It is interesting that Jesus did not say that he hopes the Gospel will be preached, but rather made a prophetic declaration that the Gospel *will* be preached. That is why John can declare and see that assignment finished.

We believe that all the UUPGs will be represented in fulfillment of Jesus's coming. Maybe what Jesus meant about the fig tree is about us being ready, being connected with the assignment, and working with the UUPGs and doing what he asked us to do. Be awake, be a light, steward the talents he's given you and me. I challenge you to not live a life unconnected to that assignment. I believe the unfinished assignment of every tribe, language, people, nation is not just for pastors and missionaries, but for every person, and I ask you to seriously consider your place in that.

## Questions & Discussion

Explore Matthew 24.

Is the prophetic fulfillment important to the believer?

Matthew 24:2.

Matthew 24:32.

Matthew 24:14.

Revelation 7:9.

Revelation 5:9.

What happens to a person who dies and has never heard the Gospel?

What is your place, or is it the church's responsibility?

**Unfinished Assignment – Lesson 3 Review:**

- His first coming was dying for the sins of the world.His second coming was spoken about in Matt. 24.Jesus says don't get excited about this temple because He came to build a new temple fitted with tribes tongues and nations. The disciples begin to ask, how do we know when that will happen and what is the sign of your coming?Matt. 24:32, Jesus teaches a lesson on the fig tree discussing the time is near according to the fulfillment of the times.The owner of the house will be awake when the thief comes.Of the bridegroom's friends, five are ready with oil and five are notThose given talents, some are faithful and some are not.Being

faithful and awake before His return is what is important to Jesus. The Assignment, the fulfillment of the Great Commission is what is connected to His return. In Revelation, John sees it finished. We believe UUPGs will be represented and are connected to His coming. The signs of the times may be more about obedience to the Great Commission, reaching the unreached, and stewarding our talents. Reaching the unreached is not just for pastors but also for anyone willing.

# Unreached:
# Gospel Basics – Lesson 1

Welcome to the Unreached class, we are now lesson number two of three. The first was the Unfinished Assignment, and I trust you had a great discussion. We are now going into Gospel Basics. There are a few fundamental, basic ideas that you need to know. This will help you both in soul winning and also working with unreached people, and specifically in the unfinished assignment. As we move forward, even though it is really a basic truth, the first part is that many times people don't understand how the Gospel works, even in soul winning. They therefore don't understand how God's infinite plan for unreached people is summarized in very simple things. So we always say that 1) God created a perfect world, 2) sin destroyed it, 3) Jesus fixed it, and 4) you can receive it. It is those four things that must consist in any Gospel outreach. However you package that Gospel, it has to have those components.

So today we start with the first truth that God loves man. Going back to the first story of Genesis, what is usually forgotten is that God created a perfect, beautiful world. He created Adam and said have domain and steward it. He named everything and it was pretty and perfect. Then he created two trees: the tree of life and the tree of knowledge. He points them out to Adam and Eve makes a point that there is one you should not eat from (the tree of knowledge of good and evil). This means, if you read between the lines, God made a point of saying there are

two he could eat from, but said not to eat from one. He made this choice available to man—life God's way, or his own way. That tension exists throughout the history of man. So we know that man sinned and blocked the access to the tree of life, so Jesus became the second tree of life. Man can now have access to life through Jesus Christ.

It's important to note here that God so loved man that he comes into the garden after Adam has sinned and is hiding, and asks him to come. Obviously, God knows where Adam is, but he asks him to come to him. This is the character of God. To understand Gospel basics, you have to understand this first principle: that God loves man and seeks him out. The bible says that no one can come to God unless the Holy Spirit draws him. So therefore, when you promote soul winning, when you witness and go to the unreached, this is the foundational truth. God loves people. He wants them not to hide and calls for them. So the Holy Spirit is calling in the hearts of men, so when we share the Gospel what happens is a miracle in the heart of the sinner, or person who is lost.

The second question God asks is, "What have you done?" Do you think that the God that created everything, knows everything, sees everything, doesn't know what Adam had done? Of course he knew, but he asks these rhetorical questions because he wants a response. He wants Adam to come and to confess or repent. The character of man is there from the beginning revealed. Adam says, "It's not me, it was the woman." The woman says, "It's not me, it was the snake." So we see we always have excuses—that is the character of man. All God wanted was an admission. It's interesting if you connect that then to the beloved verse: that God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son, not to condemn it, but to save it. That anyone who believes in him will not be lost but have eternal life. It summarizes the love of God for the world; he

looked for Adam, he looks for the sinner, he knows what they've done. He wants them to come and form a relationship with God. So in this Gospel basic, you have to understand that God loves man.

The challenge is, when it is you out on the street, it's not about how great you present the Gospel. You need to understand that God wants them to be saved and is already working in the heart of them when you share. So it is not about you, it's about what God has already done for them.

## Questions & Discussion

Think and discuss how soul winning is not about how you present the Gospel, but that God is already working in their heart.

*As you prepare to go soul winning, is it all about you presentation of the gospel?*

*If it's not about how you share, then what is your part? Do you need to prepare?*

**Gospel Basics – Lesson 1 Review:**

- The four basic components to present the gospel: God created a perfect world, sin destroyed it, Jesus fixed it, and you can receive it.God LOVES man, he initially gave man dominion in the world.He created two trees in the garden BUT there is only ONE you should not eat from.From the beginning, God gave access to life from the tree.But also, God gave the option to decide if man wanted knowledge instead of life.After Adam's fall, God calls out to Adam.

How can God not know where Adam is?He does not but He was looking for man to come to him. That man would seek Him out even in his shortcoming.God looked for Adam.Then God asks, "What have you done?" God asked a rhetorical question, knowing of course, but desired Adam to repent.God gave Adam a chance at repentance.The problem is man always has an excuse to not accept God's offer.God was looking for, because of his love, an admission. God loves man and searches man out and gives him a chance to simply come to Him.God wants to restore mans relationship with Him.You must understand that God loves man. He wants to see them saved.When you are out on the street, it is not how you present the gospel. God wants to see these people saved and is at work in their heart when you share.Thus it is not what you can do, but what God has done.God is calling man in their heart as the second tree of life is presented to them.

# Unreached:
# Gospel Basics – Lesson 2

Welcome back to the Unreached class, we continue with Gospel Basics and as we explore how God loves man and how he created a perfect world, sin destroyed it and Jesus fixed it and we can receive it. We speak about those four points as the cornerstones of gospel witness. We look at the character of God, looking for man in the first story of Adam. He called to him then he had to confess. It's more about owning our fault because God is looking to restore us, not beat us over the head with it. HE so loved the world that he sent his only son to save it. So it's about him restoring you, but if you can't own it, you can't be restored. So now we continue with another truth: the power of the blood, and the Gospel basics.

In the blood is amazing power, but sometimes we don't understand it. Some cultures we have visited do understand the power of the blood and I had this experience a couple of years ago with the teaching of the Passover story. The story is that they take the hyssop and they dip it in the blood basin and put it on the doorframes of their house. God says it will be a sign for God not to judge that house, for it was marked with the blood. It also says that it will not allow the destroyer to come in the house. Interesting that it doesn't say that God will knock on the door and ask what is behind the door. So it doesn't matter if it was an Egyptian or an Israelite, it's only about the sign of the blood. If you are marked with the blood you are saved, you are a child of the King, you have the seal of kingship on you. So it is the sign of blood that is a sign to God that you are forgiven. It also a sign to the destroyer, the

enemy, that he cannot enter in your home or life and make it a mess. It's interesting that we sometimes forget this.

I had this experience, and even though I had heard it all my life, it transformed me. I was flying helicopters a lot about twenty years ago, and one day I was piloting and all of a sudden everything went wrong. Something broke and all the lights started blinking and if you fly you know that is bad news. We went down and were stuck in a bush for a couple of days and eventually ran out of food and water and it was bad. I started to get an infection in my leg and, again, everything was against me. I was laboring and suffering, my radio wasn't working and it was like the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear, "Just plead the blood, you will be protected." And I was younger and didn't really get it, but we decided to pray. So I prayed over my leg, the helicopter saying, "I'm marked with the blood." Then we started getting so many miracles. We discovered that the problem was not with the transmission, but the plug was blocked and anyways, we were able to fix it. My leg went down, the infection, and it was like God gave us miracles.

We flew home and the lost days meant I had to pack my bags to meet another evangelist. I came to this place on the mountainside. The evangelist was excited and said, "I can't believe it, we're going to go to this witchcraft on Mount Haro? On this mountain he controls the whole mountain. It is he who rules and somehow no one has been able to penetrate." So when we said that we would come and preach he challenged the missionaries and the gospel workers and said, "We will pray and sacrifice cows to the god of Haro and if he can't stop that helicopter to come and those people to come and speak about their god, if our god is not stronger than their god, we will hear what they have to say." So now I understood why I was having problems all week leading up to

this. As we flew up to this mountain, I felt the Lord highlighting in my life the importance of understanding the blood that I am marked with. I am protected.

I landed and you could see the faces of the people on the mountainside; they could not believe that we were landing. I don't know how many thousands there were, but a mountainside full of people. So I preached just on the blood of Jesus and that I'm not here because of power or that I am powerful, but that it is because the blood of Jesus that I am able to stay here today and share the gospel. It's only the blood of Jesus that can save you, it doesn't matter how many cows you sacrifice. The first person to come is the witch doctor and he says, "Me and my house, I am today believing. I can see it is all the power in the blood of Jesus." So he was saved, and his household, and I don't know how many thousands follow him, but it's amazing following this. He becomes an evangelist, going village to village speaking the power of the blood of Jesus. Today, some of our friends can testify that he is a bishop over this mountain with hundreds of churches following him. But he discovered this through the blood of Jesus—something I had heard but didn't understand. That sometimes even the protection that we have in the power in the blood of Jesus marking my life, my heart, my family—that's the seal that God will forgive me and pass over our life in judgment and that the enemy will have no place in my life.

## Questions & Discussion

*What does it mean if you pray and by faith dip in and apply the blood of Jesus? What does it mean to pray protection by the blood of Jesus?*

What does it mean if you pray and by faith dip in and apply the blood of Jesus? How is that really translated to what does it mean when I'm praying and faced with challenges, and how can you pray and believe that the blood of Jesus is protecting you?

*Read the Passover story and discuss the protection of the blood and of the Passover.*

Exodus 12:21-23.

Read and understand this in context of what Jesus did for you on the cross. It really means that you are marked and protected from on high, you are a child of the King.

**Gospel Basics – Lesson 2 Review:**

- What God is looking for? That we would own our fault?
- If we don't own our fault we cannot be restored.
- There is power in the blood of Christ.
- Blood is placed on the doorframe of the Israelites household. If done just as instructed, the firstborn would not be destroyed and God would pass over the home.
- If you are marked by the blood it is a sign to God and the enemy.
- Karl shares his story of the helicopter going down, a bad infection, and a faulty satellite phone.
- He was reminded of the blood and prayed it over everything and miracles came after.

- On the mountainside, there was a witchdoctor ruling the area sacrificing to his God to stop Karl. If Karl still made it, the doctor would listen to him.
- It is the blood of Jesus that saves you.
- Resources: Exod. 12:1-32, Eph. 1:7.

# Unreached:
# Gospel Basics – Lesson 3

Welcome back to the Unreached class, this is the last segment of the Gospel Basics. We've talked about how God loves man, loves you the sinner, and how the gospel works and draws man. We also covered the blood and what it really means, the dynamic of him dying on the cross for you or for every tribe, people, language, nation. What does that really mean? It's a price that he paid, there is power in the blood that both marks you and protects you. So we want to continue and add a conversation about miracles. We believe that this is an important understanding about the gospel basics: God created a perfect world, sin destroyed it, Jesus fixed it, and you can receive it.

It is God who created man in his image and he wanted fellowship with him. It is the sin that separated man from God and bought sickness in the world. It is not that God is unjust. Living in a very secular society, this is the question I get all the time. How can a loving God let wars, and all that's bad, happen? That's a good question, but it's important to understand that God created a perfect world; it is sin that ushered in all the bad things that we see. I'm not saying that it's the sin of every one. It's the character of sin, the disobedience of God, it's not God that created famine and hunger and earthquakes and sickness and wars. God created a perfect world that the fellowship of man destroyed. It is important to understand that for this reason, God is loving the world and wants to restore the world. But he is not loving every wickedness that is happening. He loves man and wants man to choose to be restored back to God. So because we have sin and all the wickedness does not mean that he is not a loving God. He so loved the world he gave it his

only son, Jesus. Anyone who believes in him will have everlasting life. He did not send Jesus to condemn the world—that is what the bible says. So it shows that God loves the world, but he saves it through the second tree of life: Jesus.

Therefore, Jesus is saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." The loving God is not just there loving the wickedness, but sent his son Jesus as a way to connect with the Father. That is his assignment, his plan for your life. So what is important is that as God creates a perfect world and sin destroys it, Jesus fixes it and brings this truth that signs and wonders follow the gospel. Now, we can preach that as the gospel is preached, signs and wonders follow and all the grace and God has anointed my life…but forget your wholeness and all the great things that you are doing. The gospel is the power of God, and for the people live the gospel life and share the gospel, who follow in the footsteps, signs and restorations will follow. I can't tell you the number of miracles that happen, especially in the Muslim world and places where they deny that Jesus is the son of God.

I can share a list of stories of people, but in particular the people come with no hope. We had a festival and they had a hospital with a lot of people with leprosy. People obviously don't want to be around people with leprosy so they brought this bus and there are people in the fields. I was there preaching, I am not saying that this is an anointing on my life, I'm just saying that Jesus is here. He is risen and it says that he can do the same thing today as he did two thousand years ago because he is alive. The proof is alive because, if he was dead how could the blind see and the deaf hear? So I extended my hand, praying—and I did not know the story of the leprosy people in the field—but as we were praying something happened in that bus. I don't think they were

allowed to leave the bus because they were considered cursed in this society's context, but suddenly something started happening and people started dancing and jumping. There were about forty or fifty people that started running around, their skin had dried up and this miracle was happening. I loved it because they came and started testifying. There was no one laying hands on them they were just following the gospel and received the simple idea that Jesus could restore their lives. I am saying that there is no greater testimony that Jesus is alive than these miracles.

Take this story with you: John the Baptist came and preached repentance before Jesus came and paved the way. As he's in prison he is wondering if Jesus has come and he sends his disciples to Jesus and asks the question, "Are you the Messiah?"

Jesus says, "Go and tell John the blind see, the deaf hear, the crippled are walking and the good news is preached to the world." The evidence that Jesus had come were the miracles that followed. Jesus is the one. I believe that in gospel work and unreached people it becomes a testimony that Jesus is more than a history maker, a great teacher, a prophet, but that he really is the son of God and he is alive and not in the grave. He is the same today as he was yesterday because if he was still in the grave how could the blind see and the deaf hear? It is such a testimony: miracles will follow your ministry. So I challenge you to believe in miracles, following yours as you testify the gospel of Jesus to people. Be bold and pray for someone.

## Questions & Discussion

*Discuss the chapter where John sends his disciples to find Jesus.*

Why did Jesus not simply say, "I am the son of God"? Is there evidence that Jesus is alive and the Son of God?

What does it mean that signs and wonders will follow? Do you believe in signs and wonders today?

*Action*

Take a chance this week, share the gospel, pray for someone and see what Jesus will do.

**Gospel Basics – Lesson 3 Review:**

- He shed his blood for every tribe, tongue, and nation.
- In secular society, you often hear how can a loving God let bad things happen.
- Sin ushered in the bad, not God.
- Therefore, God wants to restore the world and wants man to choose to be restored.
- Jesus didn't even come to condemn the world but to save it.
- Back to the Father, God sent his son; he doesn't just accept all man aimlessly.
- When you are back, Plan A for you life is possible again.
- The gospel is the power of God and people living in the footsteps of the gospel will see signs and wonders follow.
- The evidence that Jesus is alive is that he will reveal himself.

- Karl shares the story of those with leprosy as he shares the gospel.
- The people in the bus with leprosy start to receive their miracle from solely hearing the gospel.
- There is no greater testimony that Jesus is alive than miracles.
- The evidence of Christ for John was there were miracles happening.
- Jesus is more than a history maker or prophet; He is alive this day.
- Miracles will follow a gospel ministry.
- Resources: Luke 7:18-23, Mark 16:14-18.

# Unreached:
# He Will Lead – Lesson 1

Welcome back the the Unreached—we're continuing now with class number three. This last class is He Will Lead. I believe ultimately that as we talk about the unreached we might ask ourselves, "How do I find it? How do I get there? How are we led to this, the assignment?" I will connect it here to the first class, The Assignment. This is the question many times—how do I get all the way there? I believe that he will lead. So throughout this I will discuss one critical story. It has helped me define getting there, the process of being led, and to talk about the battle between our own plans and God's plan and walking that journey.

First I want to talk about the story from the book of Ezekiel 47 and some from Matthew 26. In Ezekiel it speaks about what Jesus is referencing on the last and greatest day of the feast. Jesus stands and says in the book of John, "Anyone who is thirsty let them come to me and drink. The scripture says that from anyone who believes in me, living waters will flow." That passage references the book of Ezekiel 47. So what does Jesus mean with the river that flows from our belly? I believe it is connected to how God leads your life and how you find your assignment. So how do we find it, as opposed to randomly stumbling over it? I believe that Jesus is speaking to this truth here. He obviously speaks to the new truth and the new covenant that now we are the new temple of the Holy Spirit. God's presence is not only in one temple that

only one man can go to once a year. God is residing in you and me. Now that river, or God, his presence, his spirit in our lives—what does that do to believers's lives and how does that help us? What does it mean to be spirit led?

Ezekiel paints a picture of the river, that presence, flowing from there. Ezekiel has this vision of this man walking ankle deep to waist deep and that image is nice in a lot of ways. People write songs about it and preach about it, but what does it mean? Different depths of spirituality? I paint a different picture that is important to understanding the assignment, but to also unreached people. He will lead you. He wants you to find it.

The first segment is the river that he uses for Ezekiel to paint this picture. Why a river? I believe that it is obviously important that God chose this picture. First, a river has a destination. It is not like people say they are spirit led and one week they are over here, the next week over there. God uses the idea of a river as absolute and it flows with a massive force. You can step in the river and feel the force speaking to you about where it is flowing. I believe that is how God works in a believer's life. He wants you to find your destination, he's speaking to you about it, and the moment you step in the river it becomes a part of your life. He wants you to find your assignment and he wants to lead you there. So the river is not flowing randomly around the world, it has a destination and he wants you to find it.

## Questions & Discussion

Read and explore Ezekiel: 47.

*Where do you think this river flows?*

Also, discuss if this is potentially connected to unreached people and the assignment for the church. Could this be connected to your assignment?

**He Will Lead – Lesson 1 Review:**

- This question may arise: how are we led to the assignment?
- Being Spirit Led, our plan vs. God's plan.
- Ezekiel 47 and John 7:37-38.
- John 7, on the greatest day of the Feast, Jesus says, "Anyone who is thirsty let him come to me and drink. Anyone who believes in me streams of living water will flow from him."
- Jesus is referencing Ezekiel 47.
- This scripture is connected to how God leads your life, your assignment. We don't accidently stumble on God's plan.
- Jesus speaks of the new truth; we are now God's temple (God with us).
- What does the Holy Spirit in us do to our lives and how are we Spirit Led?
- A description of Ezekiel's vision.
- What does the vision mean?
- Ezekiel's sees a river in the Scripture. What does this mean?
- A river has an **absolute** destination.

- The river wants to flow where its destination is.
- The river flows with a measure of force.
- How can people say that they are Spirit led but be all over the place?
- The river has a specific direction that speaks to you where it is going when you feel it.
- God wants you to find your assignment and when you step into the river it points you where you should go.
- Where the river is flowing, can this be connected to your assignment?

# Unreached:
# He Will Lead – Lesson 2

Welcome back the Unreached class—He Will Lead. The first class was about painting a picture of a river. You discussed what it means to you, to the church, worldwide, and to unreached people. We want to continue now with the picture of the valley. In chapter 47 we have the picture of the river flowing with different depths. Later on in verse 8, 9, and 10 we see where the river flows. It says it flows in great harvest to the sea. There are fishermen standing nearby so again, it's about harvest and spiritual harvest. It is interesting that we have been called to be fishers of men so really the river flows to the harvest. It means if you follow, you will be fruitful and also a harvest of many kinds, people from every tribe, language, people, nation. Unreached people. I believe that he wants to lead to the unreached people. In fact, the river of God and has been pushing towards them for a long time.

It's also interesting that this depiction says that the moment you step into the river it starts advocating for its direction. Now if it's about the unreached or your assignment specifically, God wants to lead you. It starts pushing you that way and the battle begins between God's plan and your plan. We can find in God's word, and also Jesus fought.

Look in Matthew 26: here is Jesus, son of God, with one assignment to die for the sin of man. He does many great things along the way, preaches the gospel, but in the end his assignment is one thing. The final hour of this chapter is when he is in the garden and he wrestled with it, the assignment, even though he knew what it was. He was praying with two of his disciples and verse 38 says his soul was overwhelmed

with sorrow to the point of death. What does that mean? It means that God's assignment for you is going to create an overwhelming feeling. Sometimes it's going to feel like you can't do it. If the son of God could have this battle, not that he couldn't call a legion of angels, but he as the son of man wanted to show how we can fulfill our assignment.

So here he is and he even shows how to battle. He prays with the Father and debates. The first time he even asks, "Father, remove this cup." But if you read on he prays again and a third time he prays and he is gracious. He says, "If this can't happen unless I do it, then let your will be done. Not mine but yours." That battle between God's plan and your plan is something Jesus wanted us to discover and see that many times God's plan is overwhelming and it requires faith. It is sometimes beyond our imagining; his dream is big for you, but he wants you to believe in him and imagine it. So here Ezekiel speaks about these depths and the deeper you go in God's river, obviously the more challenging and overwhelming it becomes.

What Jesus says in verse 41 is a key that connects to the passage in Ezekiel. As the disciples are wrestling and Jesus himself is battling he says, "Watch and pray." The disciples fell asleep—they couldn't stay awake when they prayed. So Jesus wakes them up and says, "Watch and pray." The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Jesus points to this battle between the spirit and the flesh, God's plan and your plan. The river is pushing you and speaking to you about God's plan, but many times the natural the flesh feels like, "I can't do it." What is your battle? What is God's battle over your life? I know that he has a great plan.

## Questions & Discussion

*Read Matthew 26 and look at Jesus' battle.*

What is it that may be overwhelming to you that you have to pray about and overcome? Also, did Jesus have to do this? Did he have to pray or did he do this to show us?

*What does it mean that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak?*

Discover the three depths and discover what this means for you.

**He Will Lead – Lesson 2 Review:**

- First discuss what it means where the river is going for you and the church.
- The river has different depths (the deeper we go the less of our will).
- The river flows to the harvest, the spiritual harvest.
- We have been called to be fishers of men.
- If we follow the river, we will reap a harvest.
- Fishes of many kinds relates to tribes, tongue, and nations.
- We believe the river wants to lead us to unreached.
- The Holy Spirit has been reaching and advocating unreached.
- Once you step into the river, it starts speaking about where it is going (advocating unreached or your assignment).

- The battle then begins, your plan or God's plan.
- Matthew 26.
- His assignment was to die for the sins of the world.
- In the eleventh hour of his assignment he is wrestling with his assignment although he knew clearly with what it was.
- Jesus is overwhelmed with the point of death.
- God's assignment for you is going to be overwhelming; sometimes we will feel like we can't do it.
- Jesus first asks to remove the cup.
- Then He says if I don't do it, it wont be done.
- God wanted to reveal that our plan will be difficult and require faith just as Jesus's because God's plan is bigger than our plans.
- The river of God is pushing us deeper into God's plan and with depth becomes more difficulty (less of our will).
- The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.
- The river is pushing us to God's plan but the flesh wants to be in control.
- What is your battle to overcome to follow the river?
- Did Jesus have to pray? The value of prayer and the desire of our flesh and the spirit.
- What are the three depths and what do they mean?

# Unreached:
# He Will Lead – Lesson 3

Welcome back the last segment in the He Will Lead class in the Unreached series. This is the conclusion. Now, the question is regarding the battle we discussed in the last segment. The spirit is willing but the bone and flesh is weak. We connect it back to the passage in Ezekiel. He paints a picture of walking into a river and getting deeper and deeper. There are many nice pictures of the deeper you get the more spiritual you are or the more gifts you receive, but I want to connect it to another point that the scripture makes. It is four depths (ankle, knee, waist, and deep enough to swim) but really it is only two conditions: standing and swimming. Meaning the current is pushing whether you are ankle, knee, or waist deep; meaning it wants you to find your assignment, go to the unreached, and do what God's assignment in your life is. So it is only when you get to the point where it is deep enough to swim that the river gets control.

So it is a battle between the river and you or the spirit and the flesh. You can stand ankle or knee deep, but you're still standing at the bottom of the river meaning you are in control. It's only the place where it's deep enough to swim in that the river controls where you are going. The point is that the battle is the same as the one being depicted in this river. That battle, I suggest, is also about harvest in your life—he wants to lead. How do you overcome it? I used to think that it was this difficult idea, that I had to overcome it when maybe it is more about surrendering to God's will in my life. Or taking the last step into the deep river and letting it sweep you off our feet. Or saying I want to let go of my plans and see what God has for me. I promise you, he has

amazing harvest, vision, dreams, and plans that he has planted in your life just for you. Sometimes the key to overcoming that overwhelming feeling is to surrender.

I suggest even that the Holy Spirit, the river of God, has called the church for two thousand years to unreached people at the ends of the earth. Take the idea that the apostles were afraid—when opposition came they fled, Peter denied Jesus, they were not qualified, they didn't have great faith, they didn't know how to do it, but somehow they were in the room filled with the Holy Spirit. The river of the Holy Spirit started flowing in them and what happened is they went to the ends of the earth. Not one of them died in Jerusalem. They died martyred deaths in every country. They went everywhere because the river of God propelled them to the ends of the earth. He will lead you, the church, to your assignment. He will lead the more we discover this in unreached people. I am convinced the Holy Spirit is compelling, speaking, calling and it is more that we are unable to surrender.

I am challenging you to step into the deep. Say yes to Jesus and he will take you places and he has so many things for you, you cannot even imagine what he wants to do with your life. Let go.

We have been exploring unreached people in this class; how it is The Unfinished Assignment, Gospel Basics, and how you for sure are qualified and can do it; how God is working in the hearts of men, but also how he will lead you to it. I want to conclude with this idea, the story about the year of Jubilee. The thought is that the year of Jubilee is the year Jesus begins his ministry and says the spirit of the Lord is on me, that he has anointed me to proclaim sight to the blind, freedom for the prisoners, that this is the year of the Lord's favor.

In that Jesus is referencing the celebration, only celebrated once, called the Year of the Lord's Favor. The instruction was that the people were complaining that they lost their inheritance. It was the idea that somehow by the sound of a trumpet, freedom will come to the people and return of the possession would be done. God created a perfect world, sin destroyed it, so somehow Jesus fixed it and would return what was taken at the sound of a trumpet and God would restore what was lost of their inheritance by bad decisions. Somehow that story that Jesus references when he begins his ministry is kind of saying, "I am sounding the trumpet, freedom has come." Then he almost passes the trumpet to his disciples and says, "I want you now to go and blow the trumpet to every corner of the world. I want them to hear the gospel. Because it is restoration for the people." So that is what he is passing on to them to do.

Think about that in the class of the unreached and explore that idea of what apostle Paul means, that at the sound of the last trumpet all will be caught up. Could it be the last gospel trumpet in the last tribe?

## Questions & Discussion

*Read Matthew 26, Ezekiel 47:8-10.*

*What does reaching unreached people mean to/for me? What is my part?*

*For the three billion people who have not heard the gospel, has the Holy Spirit called someone to go to them?*

Especially the unengaged, unreached people. *Is it that God has called the people or is it not their time to hear it yet?*

*When Paul writes about the "Last Trumpet," could it be that the trumpet sounds when the last tribe hears?*

**He Will Lead – Lesson 3 Review:**

The battle: the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.The picture in Ezekiel depicts the increasing water depth as man steps in.Every 1000 m the deeper we are in the river.The point of the Scripture, four depths; ankle, knee, hip, and submerged.But really, two depths.The current of God is pushing us no matter how far in we are. The Spirit is willing!But only the place where we are deep enough to swim is the Spirit in control. Every other depth, we are still in control.This is the battle depicted in Ezekiel.The solution: surrendering to God's will for your life. When you surrender the Spirit will sweep us off our feet.The Holy Spirit has called the church for two thousand years to reach the unreached. He will lead the church and us if we surrender.The problem: we are unwilling to say yes.What does reaching unreached mean for me?References: Luke 4:19, Lev. 25:10, 1 Cor. 15:52.The Year of Jubilee is what Jesus is speaking about when he begins his ministry.Reference: The Year of The Lord's Favor—by the trumpet sound the return of the Israelite's inheritance would be restored.Jesus is sounding the Trumpet for Freedom and then passes on the trumpet to us and it proclaims freedom to all those we preach to.

# Storytelling:
# Firm Foundation – Lesson 1

Welcome to the class Chronological Storytelling. We are going to deal with preparing for the assignment of reaching unreached tribes. We are not just talking about unreached people in the Muslim or Hindu world but more about illiterate societies that are still in existence, tribes that have never heard the gospel or maybe haven't had a lot of interaction with our civilization. We are looking at how to tell the gospel story, and chronological storytelling will set you up to memorize a couple classes. We are going to talk about a couple things that will help you understand why we use this method, how to do it the right way, and why we do it this way. We believe God's story is one story, with a beginning and an end.

In this first class we are going to start building on a firm foundation. It is going to deal with three simple things: that Jesus confirms the story, what the story is, and the behavior modification that sometimes becomes a challenge. As we track this segment, I want to share a testimony that Jesus does confirm the story. Many times we discover and believe and what we want you to believe is that when you first come into these tribes, I have experiences of how many times dreams, revelations, and miracles confirm the story. Not just because the gospel is great, but because of the connection of God establishing his story over every story.

I had this experience many years ago with the tribe called the Tala people—they are called the roof people. There is an evangelist, his name

is Alta Bekila, and he came to me and we started flying a helicopter into this tribe and saw many great things. He started this journey of reaching this tribe almost twenty years ago, with him having a dream and the Lord speaking to him, saying to start walking south. So he walked for twelve days south, crossing rivers, facing challenges. He thought he would parish and it was difficult in many ways. But as he came to them, Jesus spoke and said, "If you find where two rivers meet you find people who have not heard my name." So that is what he set out to do. On the mountain there happened to be these people.

He walked up and started living with these people. He didn't know the language but lived there for eight or nine months learning the language and culture and becoming a part of their tribe. Now these were people that didn't have iron, they didn't have clothing the way we do. They had skirts made of grass. They had big ovens to melt stones and that's how they made their knives and spears. It's primitive in every way. So the people loved him. They had their own king, they had a prince, and then they had three witch doctors that were leading their worship. They worshipped the trees, the sun, the stars, and a couple of gods that they prayed to. He lived there long enough to learn the language and the time comes for him to share God's story. He announced this and built the expectation up by saying, "The day is coming. I'm going to tell God's story. This is why he sent me here." So he gathered the people together and he shared God's story. God loves them and he sent him to share this story. Immediately, as he's telling the story, opposition comes. The witch doctors rally the people and say that this was against their gods. That night his friends came to him and told him he needed to leave because the witch doctors were planning on killing him. But he was strong in his faith and he decided that he was going to stay and he

announced, "I am going to pray that God will give you a sign and he will prove that his story is the true story." He didn't know what to pray for; he didn't know what would happen but he believed that Jesus had sent him there and he would confirm his story.

So the next day he prayed as the people gathered. It was daytime, sunny, and somehow there was lightning. I don't know how it happened. I was there flying the helicopter so I was able to witness this happening, but the lightning struck the witch doctor's house. Lightning from the heavens struck the houses where the witch doctors did their worshipping and it burst into flames. It burned to the ground—these grass houses were built with a tree in the middle—and all that remained were these three poles. The witch doctors fled and the prince came forward and gave his life to Jesus, then the king came forward, then thousands of people. The church is born in a town of people by the miracle. It's interesting that the first to come to peace, the prince, is called Jongo. Jongo becomes the bishop of the church today. But first, he plans to build the first church where the witch doctors's house burned on the grass. The church is born through confirmation of his story through a miracle.

I am sharing now that when we tell chronological story, we are treating the gospel like God's story. I believe that regardless of where you go, or what tribe you go into, I want you to know that God will confirm his story. He will help you to confirm that this is not just another story. It is God's story and it is above very other story, and it is powerful and he will confirm it with signs and wonders.

## Questions & Discussion

*Read Acts Chapter 16.*

*How does that relate to me in reaching unreached tribes?*

**Firm Foundation – Lesson 1 Review:**

Chronological Storytelling.Our focus is illiterate societies; tribes that exist that have still never heard the gospel.How do we tell the gospel to these tribes?Why do we use Chronological Storytelling?God's story is one story with a beginning and end.God's desires to establish his story over any other story.Karl shares the testimony of his friend Alta Bekila, who was told by Jesus to head south to the Tara people.They had a king, prince, and three witch doctors.Alta Bekila shares God's story with the people and challenges immediately arise.Alta prayed that God would provide a sign to prove the true story between God's and their God.Lightening from Heaven in the middle of the day burns up the three witch doctor homes.The church is born via this miracle.The Prince, Jungo, plants the church on the witch doctors grass houses.The church is born through his confirmation of His story.Treat the gospel like God's story.God will confirm his story.Resources: Acts 16.

# Storytelling:
# Firm Foundation – Lesson 2

Welcome to the class Chronological Storytelling as we talk about Firm Foundation. Why do we build on a firm foundation? Why is that important? We spoke in the first segment about how Jesus confirms his story. I trust that he will do it through you no matter your mission. Whether you're in Indonesia or Ethiopia, he will do some great things confirming the story, because he does. He is faithful and we sometimes see unbelievable things. I, even at the time that I saw it, didn't know how big it was. So in John chapter 16, he is promising us. In this segment we want to talk about his story, what I mean and why we even treat the gospel like a story. Many times in the West we are quoting the bible, soul winning. I think John 3:16 is a great passage but I think what makes it more powerful for me is that I connect it to what happened in the Garden of Eden. He looked out for Adam and he so loved the world that he planted the second tree of life, which became Jesus. So sometimes if we read scripture it will not make sense, especially in a place where the gospel was never told.

His story, God's one specific story, it has a beginning and an end. We don't go to the bookstore and pick a book and read a chapter in the middle and the end and hope it'll make sense to us. For us to make sense of the gospel, more than great teaching, great philosophy, or learning to be a good Christian, God's story lays out this beautiful plan and it is important for you to know the beginning to understand the end. So why would you think if you come into a tribe that had never heard it, that God's story would make sense quoting a verse without any context? So God's story is amazing, unique, and above every other story.

I want to share a story, a testimony, that I thought was good about one of our missionaries working in a place called the B. tribe. There were a fair amount of Muslims there. What was powerful was that as they were sharing the stories, some of the kids were listening, the people were listening, as they tell it chronologically. And as they are telling God's story, the people don't believe yet. They don't know the end and haven't even been introduced yet to Jesus. But they start hearing it and it starts making sense. One day, some kids were hearing about how Lucifer was cast out of heaven, and the war in heaven and they cast out a third of the angels.

So they heard this and they were probably seven, eight, nine years old. They were walking down the road with a couple Muslims with them and they are repeating the story that they heard. They don't believe, they are not believers in any way, they are just repeating the story. As they're telling the story, these Muslim guys start falling on the ground and acting like snakes. They were hissing and moving on the ground like snakes and the kids are scared to death. They are running behind trees and wondering, "what is happening to these people?" As this is happening one of the boys decided they needed to run back to town and ask for help because they don't know what to do with these people. So they ran back to the evangelist, the missionary, who had told the story. So they come back and pray for them and it turns out that they are demon possessed and the demons were manifesting. So they are praying for them and they are delivered. These Muslims had just come to faith but what's interesting is that a rumor comes and reaches the King of the B. tribe with over a million members strong. Several years later, as I'm sitting with the king he raised this story and said, "We heard that God's story, the story you are telling, is greater than any other story." It's

interesting—his story is not just a story, but the best story ever told. So I want you to trust it, believe it because as you go out and share it, it is not just a story, it is the best story of anywhere you go.

## Questions & Discussion

*Read and discuss the book "Building on Firm Foundations." Explore what it means telling the gospel chronologically and telling it as a story.*

*How do we make each piece relevant?*

**Firm Foundation – Lesson 2 Review:**

Why do we build on a firm foundation?Jesus will confirm his story through the team among the tribe.What is His story?In the west, we often quote the bible rather than tell the story when evangelizing. Although useful in western culture because the commonness of the Bible, it doesn't make sense when sharing only quotes out of context among tribes.God's story has a beginning, middle, and end. If you read a book randomly in the middle or end it wouldn't make sense. For God's story to be clear the whole context is necessary.Among those who haven't heard, it is necessary to share God's story with its beginning, middle, and end.Karl shares a testimony of Muslims manifesting like snakes and the children get the evangelist, who shared the story, to cast out the demons.The rumor from the story, "We heard that God's Story that you are telling is more powerful than any other story."Trust that His story is the best story for man and he will confirm it.What does it mean to tell the gospel Chronologically and telling it as a story?How can each piece of God's story become relevant?

# Storytelling: Firm Foundation – Lesson 3

Welcome back to Chronological Storytelling class. In this class we're talking about Firm Foundation. We'll keep unfolding truth on why we use it: we use storytelling, that it confirms the story, the story is special. But in this segment we are going to deal with behavior modification because a lot of times it is a big, big deal. We'll discuss what that means in culture vs. the gospel and how this is helping us to penetrate cultures or to be cross-cultural in our gospel communication. Many times we think that Christian mission work becomes about "modifying behaviors."

If we paint a picture, it's almost like we end up pushing a horse cart. Sometimes the horse cart is the behavior we think a transformed Christian person should act and behave. Then the horse is faith symbolizing what it is. Many times we are coming through mission work to a tribe and we want them to become good Christian people, so we focus on how they should act, how they should dress and look, and that is the horse cart. It becomes behavior modification. Dress like this, sing these songs, and act like this then you're a good Christian, instead of teaching a belief system: this is Jesus Christ, what he did for them, and teaching to follow. So following Him, the cart will follow the horse. Somewhat a basic illustration, but maybe it helps you to see it.

I have seen some sad experiences in the negative side of what that can mean. For example, we were in a tribe in the southern Ethiopia border of Kenya, called N. We were there baptizing people and God is doing some things there. I mean they are a simple people, in many ways, but a great smart tribe. They are a proud people. They are obviously

polygamist and they have many beautiful features as a tribe. As we're there we were baptizing people and I was there to speak at a "conference" they arranged (they heard somewhere that Christians have to have a conference).

So I was sitting there on a platform they have built, it makes me sad because you know, they don't have clothes normally and they come and are dumping swords and machine guns and they put on choir robes and they looked like "church people" and they went into this church they had constructed. I'm sitting there and we're all singing and they had the most beautiful song. They were singing and swaying in the choir robes they had sewn up and they had books and I can see that it's beautiful and they are harmonizing. But I look and see that the books they are holding, the pages are all white. There's nothing written in the books and it grieves my heart because somehow somewhere they have seen that if you are to be a good Christian, you have to have a choir, sing choir songs, and move the way a choir does and they have choir books even though they can't read. They are good people, but they have somehow learned that singing and having a book makes them have a good service and this makes them Christians. What is sad is the question, "What is it that they put their faith on?" Is it the change in behavior, changing clothes, and putting out songs? Or is it the blood of Jesus that saved them? This is the question we need to ask ourselves when we do our mission. What are we there to do—change behavior or introduce them to Jesus Christ to reconcile with God, with Jesus saying I am the only way to the Father? Somehow we have to understand why we have the need to build on a firm foundation. We have to introduce the gospel to them and help them understand that. That is the key.

## Questions & Discussion

How can we do this sometimes wrongly in our own culture? We invite them to church, if you do this you become a good Christian.

*Do we, sometimes with our friends expect behavior modification over actually introducing them to Jesus?*

*What can happen if you introduce behavior modification first? Can their faith become misplaced?*

**Firm Foundation – Lesson 3 Review:**

Behavioral modification is an important topic when considering different cultures.How does understanding behavioral modification help us be cross-cultural?Sometimes, missions work has become more focused on behavioral modification than the people's faith.Example: the horse pulling its cart.The horse cart depicts how a Christian should act and behave.The horse symbolizes faith, a belief system.Many missions efforts have focused on the horse cart rather than the horse (the cart pulls the horse).But the belief system built on Jesus is what transforms people lives.Conclusion, the cart naturally follows the horse.Story: Karl was among the Ngangutom people, baptizing them and speaking at a conference.The tribe was dressed in robes, dancing with books held up in their hands but the books had nothing written in them.The people got the impression that to be a good Christian you have to wear a robe, dance in a particular way, sing songs, and carry books.What was it that the people put their faith in?Did the modification or is it the blood of Christ that saves them?Do we change their behavior or point them to Christ?Does behavior modification happen in our culture?If people

come to church, do we ask them to stop drinking or doing drugs? And would they perceive that they are good Christians if they do stop?What can happen if you introduce behavior modification before Jesus?

# Storytelling:
# Basis for Faith – Lesson 1

Welcome to the Chronological Storytelling class. In this class we are talking about the Basis for Faith. We started talking about that storytelling firm foundation and why that story is important, but we continue now with the challenges of behavior modification vs. the gospel. This segment we're dealing with culture vs. gospel and how sometimes that is a big challenge. There are so many cultures, that it is difficult, but it can also be the key. I want you to be challenged by the idea, that although a lot of times we deal with polygamy, we deal with things that are illegal in our society. So forgetting Christian behavior, but things that to us are unacceptable, and think about how that is their culture and value system. Sometimes we come and it's a big challenge to introduce the gospel. Also, look at how even though those cultures are challenging they are sometimes keys to the gospel. Here is one amazing story. There are many times that a culture will have a blood sacrifice and sometimes that is the key to unlocking their faith. A friend of mine was in a tribe and they started with chronological storytelling and the gospel worked for the missionaries. Interestingly enough, these people started calling themselves sons of Noah. I don't know where it came from. So the flood story became a key to those people because somewhere in their story they had something similar so they connected with that story and it became a way for them to be able to unlock their faith.

It was a tragic story in one way, but I had a friend, and there was an accident and a boy was killed and many tragic things came out of this, but it's a story about how there are cultural keys that can unlock the ability to receive faith. In this tragic story, a boy was killed and the elders offered generously, through mediation, what they called the process of redemption. I'm telling it the best I can, but the redemption process basically meant that they would take a lamb and cut the lamb in half and let each side fall to the ground, then the intestines fall on the ground and the person who is the murderer, criminal, or who needs punishment, will walk through the blood, stomp on the lamb, and when he comes out on the other side they will meet him with a white robe and invite him into their home. The one that went through this, was invited into the home and almost replaced the child that died. Think about the redemption of that story. There was not just forgiveness, but the redemption. I think that that relationship still plays out. Think about what a beautiful picture that is in the gospel. That even though we are guilty and deserve the penalty of death, through the blood of Jesus we come out not just forgiven or redeemed, but as children of God. We call out "Father" because we are receiving the spirit of adoption. The culture sometimes can be key to opening the gospel and we need to pray to see how we can share it.

## Questions & Discussion

*In our culture, what could be a cultural key that could help us tell the gospel story that is both relevant and connected?*

## Basics for Faith – Lesson 1 Review

Topic: basis for faith.The challenges of behavioral modification vs. the gospel.Focus: Culture vs. gospel.Cultures can be challenging to introduce the gospel but yet have been the key to presenting the gospel. Culture keys.Many cultures have sacrifice stories; these stories have been keys to unlocking the faith of the tribes.Sometimes, the differing stories among cultures have been keys to introducing the gospel.Example: a people group who called themselves the sons of Noah.The flood story of Noah became pivotal for these people.Example: a boy was killed in a car accident.The redemption story, a lamb is taken and cut in half.The one who is a murderer or criminal will walk through the split lamb and when he crosses through it will be given a white robe and introduced into the family he had offended, becoming a child to them.This example is the perfect depiction of the blood of Christ cleansing us as we pass through it.We must pray that the Holy Spirit would help us present the gospel.In our culture, what is a cultural key?

# Storytelling:
# Basis for Faith – Lesson 2

Welcome back to Chronological Storytelling class. We are still on the Basis for Faith. In the last lesson we talked about culture vs. gospel, now we are going to look deeper exploring what is the basis for faith. I am bringing examples to explore it. I'll talk about challenging values in this segment. What does that mean and what could that look like? It can look like a lot of things. This is a question that sometimes you are asked as a pioneer mission going into unreached tribes; there are anthropologist-type people living in that world asking why are we there changing their culture. Well, I don't believe that that is helpful. We're not there to change culture, but there are many cultures that are bad.

For example, in one tribe we were working in they kill babies. They feel that if a baby is born with teeth in the wrong order they will toss it in the river and kill them. It doesn't matter what book I read or what world I'm a part of, that is bad culture. Some of those values I feel confident about changing. There are also in some places challenges of them just not understanding yet.

So this example is a simple story, but I was at a tribe. They were primitive, fairly poor, they didn't know how to even plow a field properly and farm in a good way and one of the challenges with the gospel that they had was that they had a very high infant mortality rate. We didn't know why that was and it was a big debate. We discovered they had a bad culture of hygiene after going to the bathroom. Since there were no actual bathrooms, they didn't wash their hands and then they

would feed the infants with their hands. So they start getting cholera or stomach issues that cause a lot of them to get diarrhea and dehydration.

We didn't want to come in with our western values so what we did is we loaded a helicopter with soap and brought a couple of gospel truths with the helicopter. We flew in and decided that the evangelists would teach them how to use soap and wash their hands. So we got them to use soap and wash their hands after they went to the bathroom and infant death dropped dramatically. It was amazing and suddenly only a couple kids died of each ten. It was a dramatic change. So this became a good behavior change that I'm proud of, and we're defending it.

But sometimes the challenging values are completely different. How do we deal with polygamy? That's a culture that many in our culture cannot accept. There was a tribe where the men would have lots of wives and the evangelists came in and focused on needing to change behavior. So the missionary forced them by saying that they couldn't be baptized unless they were only one man and one wife. This is a difficult challenge—what does the bible say about it? What does it look like? Is salvation based on changing behaviors or is salvation based on faith and then behavior change follows? Can you force that change? So the women decided their identity was as a wife, so they would kill themselves to solve the problem. That caused a debate that we discussed a lot. I want you to explore these topics. How can challenging values—even when you can almost see how they fit in the bible and our worldview—help us bring the gospel to them?

## Questions & Discussion

*What do you believe the Bible says about biblical marriage?*

*What do you think the basis for salvation or water baptism is? What about behavior? Can it come before or is it a matter of faith?*

**Basics for Faith – Lesson 2 Review:**

Exploring what is the basis for faith through examples.What are challenging values?Anthropologists often confront missionaries with the question, why are you changing their culture?We are not reaching tribes to change cultures however some cultures have bad values.Example: a culture kills babies with deformities.Example: a primitive people lacked farming skills.The people had a high death rate for children, about three out of ten would survive.The people, including children, didn't wash their hands after the bathroom.The people were receiving the gospel and during that time the evangelists started to bring soap and teach how to use it.A good behavior change.Sometimes though, the challenging values are completely different.Polygamy is a large issue.Example: an evangelist focused on changing the habit, of polygamy, before the tribe could even be baptized.The women said their identity was in their wifehood so they would just kill themselves if their husbands left them. What does the Bible say about polygamy?Is salvation or water baptism dependent upon behavior modification?Or is salvation based on faith and behavior modification follows naturally?How can challenging values that we don't see within the Bible challenge us to present the gospel?What does the Bible say about marriage?What is the basis for salvation and water baptism?

# Storytelling:
# Basis for Faith – Lesson 3

Welcome back to Chronological Storytelling course. We are still on the Basis for Faith. In the last segment we talked about culture vs. gospel, and some of those values is leading to the questions again, behavior modification and the gospel. If you remember in the last lesson that example of the horse and cart and wondering what do we bring first, how do we bring it, and is change happening—this is what we want to deal with here.

There is a scripture passage that we're going to look at that has become very important to helping me understand this. Second Corinthians 3:15-18, verse 15, starts talking about the new covenant promise we have. It says that Moses with faith was able to penetrate the holiest of holies. That story talks about how now with the new covenant we have access to the throne of God. The high priest can only go once a year and has fear of sin in his life. He would die, something that they didn't have access to now we have. Access to the holy of holies means what? What apostle Paul teaches is as we now with unveiled faith enter into the holy of holies, the bible says we will behold the Lord like in a mirror, we go into the presence of the Lord, the bible teaches that we are changed into his image from glory to glory. This is how change happens.

Introducing them to the gospel, to Jesus the redeemer, the one true light restores them to the Father, now having access to the throne of God. As they get to have a relationship with the Lord they are now restored. As we spend time with them, teaching them to pray, change will happen in their behavior. If you remember the story of polygamy,

many times missionaries were teaching that men would have to leave their other wives in order to be baptized….you get into some really difficult values. What is the gospel and who is it for? They are ignorant of their gospel and their culture was to marry many. By saying they could only keep their first wife caused the other wives to say they had no value and threaten to kill themselves. But we said we believe that their lives are equally important so we said let's pray. So they start praying and the Lord started moving in that tribe and they are being changed into this image.

If you remember as we preach the gospel, God created a perfect world and sin destroyed it, Jesus fixed it, and you can receive it. Now God in the beginning made Adam and Eve. They were one husband, one wife, and they married and would become one flesh. Then sin came into the world and a lot of these behaviors and values are a consequence of sin but God's plan is to come in and restore it to the new covenant model, which is again one husband, one wife. Suddenly God started saving the leaders and the wives. They started saying, "We want to live this way, as long as we can be provided for." So some leaders set examples of how the godly model would be. The young people start seeing this is the way, seeing the harmony, and seeing the fruit of it. We see no fights in the family versus the other tribe, where they start forcing them to abandon a couple of wives and you see a generation of children belonging to the extra wives who were forced to leave and become orphans. So there is a generation of bitter people hating the church and the gospel because when the gospel came to their tribe, they became orphans. Think about that. Somehow we miss how change is happening. We need to introduce them to Jesus, the throne of God, and how they can have access themselves. Change starts happening, they start having their own convictions

and they come with their own questions. They will change as the Holy Spirit changes their heart in the way it is meant to change.

## Questions & Discussion

*Read 1 Corinthians 3.*

Was this just about food?

*What is good change vs. bad change? Are there good values we can add to the tribe? When should such a change be introduced to the tribe?*

**Basics for Faith – Lesson 3 Review:**

Behavior modification or the gospel, which comes first?2 Cor. 3:15-18, the new covenant promise that we have.We have access to the throne of God, holy of holies.We can behold the Lord face to face and be changed into His image.This is how change happens.The gospel that introduces the tribes to Christ gives them access to the throne of grace, thus beholding the Lord as in a mirror being transformed.A personal relationship with the Father changes the people's behavior.Past missions decided what wives those of polygamy had to get rid of.This gave the impression that the other wives were not important, suggesting that not all are equal.Many behavior and values, such as polygamy, have been disrupted because of sin but through Christ, they can be restored. The new covenant teaches, one man, one wife.As the elders grew in the Lord, they saw the value of one wife and begin to teach this to the younger generation who adopted it.The tribe in which the missionary taught that they must leave their other wives, was left with many widows with orphans and no financial support to provide.Therefore, when the gospel came the children became orphans.Change comes as

the Holy Spirit changes the heart of the tribal man.Cor. 3.Was this just about food?What is good change vs. bad change?When should change be introduced, before or after the gospel?

# Chronological Storytelling: Storytelling – Lesson 1

Welcome back to the Chronological Storytelling course. We are now in the last course, storytelling. We dealt first with firm foundation—what it is, why we do it. We talk about the basis for faith, that not behavior modification but the gospel changes lives. Now lastly we will talk about some things that are important to storytelling and why we do this. You're going to look at stories, how to tell them, and leading questions for them to connect the stories to their culture.

Why do we use morality? What is the basis for it? First, the reason is we are going into places that are illiterate. We don't really have illiteracy in our society, what we have is what we call communication illiteracy, or oral communication. It is becoming a truth in most of the western world and cultures that even though we are literate in reading and writing, many of us are still what we call oral communicators. It means we retain information much better when we hear stories instead of just facts and figures. A lot of people are educated and have this academia culture or has more of a literacy communication culture or retain information statistically. But most of the public are oral communicators. If that is true in our cultures with high literacy, think about a tribe that does not read and write. Even if they learn to read and write this generation, they will still be oral communicators.

Many times we will train missionaries or gospel evangelists to lead bible classes in Africa or Asia. And there many times they will pick the

brightest kids and all the siblings will support that bright kid to go to college and he will be the bright one to support them at home one day. They are all proud of him and will save and put their resources towards him. So in their culture it is a pride to learn how to read and write and we get that. We promote that, but we can't wait for that to produce the gospel. We can't let generations of them die waiting to hear the gospel, waiting to learn to read and write. We believe in translation and literacy, but what I'm saying is communicating the gospel has to be in a way that they can understand.

Many times when evangelists go through their bible schools and they get their diplomas, it's the most prideful possession they have. That is great but many times when they go back to their tribe they are more into proving how much they have learned by quoting statistics. But this tribe, who has no idea what the bible is, does not understand what they are saying. So what we say orally, that even Jesus told when he spread the gospel and told parables, it causes them to retain it and understand it. The key to be able to believe is to be able to understand it. So look at this—what is the reason for telling these stories? Because when they hear stories they are able to retain it and understand it and repeat it.

It will surprise you how well they can retain it. In fact, we did an experiment with one that had gone to college, one that had completed secondary school, and one that had no schooling and was fully illiterate. We gave them a story and a group to repeat the story to. All of them had the same story and we filmed them to show the leaders. It's funny because as we showed them we asked them to guess which is educated and which is illiterate, there was one group where everyone was engaged and asking questions. Everyone said that guy there must be educated but it's funny because that was exact opposite. The illiterate guy knew

how to repeat the story and communicate because that is how he retains information and connect it with the people. I'm not saying that you have to be illiterate to be effective in storytelling. What I'm saying is in many cases that is how they retain information and that is why we communicate orally. So we are going to learn the stories so we can understand it's more about communicating so they can understand it.

## Questions & Discussion

*Do we have people in our own society that might do better retaining information through storytelling?*

*Can you think of a society or setting where the people may be illiterate but are oral communicators?*

**Storytelling – Lesson 1 Review:**

How do you tell the stories?What questions do you provide after?Why do we use orality?We are going to places with illiteracy.In western cultures, with high literacy, people are still oral communicators. Oral communicators learn through stories.We obtain information better through stories rather than facts.Those with academic backgrounds have literacy communication.We cannot wait for people to be able to read and write before hearing the gospel.In third world countries, sometimes the degree becomes a prideful possession.The degree can be used to declare education but limits the ability to share a story for illiterate people.Jesus is shared through stories.Stories help oral communicators understand what they are hearing.The gospel as a story orally told helps oral communicators retain the stories.

# Chronological Storytelling: Storytelling – Lesson 2

Welcome back to the Chronological Storytelling class. In the last class we were dealing with storytelling. We discussed very basically morality and how storytelling helps people to retain information. This segment we are going to very quickly discuss chronology. Chronology means to tell it in order. It's important that we package this in a way that makes sense. It is the same with orality, that there are literate or oral communicators and in an illiterate society they will remember a story much better than facts and figures. In fact, when we tell a story they can repeat it multiple times without wavering because if you think about it, that is how they retain information. They do this for generations, telling stories to their children to pass on information.

Chronology, why we tell the gospel chronologically, is also for the same reason—we want them to understand it. If you come in and introduce Jesus, and they don't even know who the Father is, Jesus does not make any sense. Great evangelists and great preaching doesn't mean much. I can get them to repeat after me in prayer, but is that what saves them? Or is it faith that Jesus is the lamb of God, the way to the Father, the one who redeems them for their sin? When we say it in chronology, we say in order that God created a perfect world, there was no sin in the world, and there was perfect harmony. We start talking about the relationship God had with man and how beautiful it is. We tell stories of Adam and Eve and what sin is and how it entered into the world. Then we point to this idea that every sin has a price and what is the price. Every story in the bible talks about the price of sin being death. With every story something had to be sacrificed, blood had to be shed.

With the stories we paint a picture of every year—animals needed to be slaughtered until the son came and under his death they were forgiven.

Also, at the same time we have stories that point to a promise from the very beginning. God so loved the world that from the beginning he sent a promise. Then you get Abraham and how instead of killing his son a substitute was found as a sacrifice for their sins. It's amazing that started pointing at that promise. So you tell all those stories, think about the bible with a beginning and an end and it starts making sense to the people. God created a perfect world and wants a relationship with man but sin entered in and every sin had to be paid. Then they are hoping and they hope that God would come. Like the story of Noah, he sent an arc and if they would just get in the arc they would be saved. These stories keep building on a hope. But then he introduced Jesus as the lamb of God and they just get it. You don't have to explain it, they're just like wow he's going to be our savior and they understand the gospel. It's a beautiful thing.

Sometimes in our culture we don't fully understand the gospel and why we're saved, that Jesus is the Lamb of God, the sacrifice that redeems us in God's eyes. Telling that story chronologically is how they can understand all the Jesus had done for them. We see a lot these tribes rejoicing and they can't stop rejoicing because they get it. Think about how even here at home when we spread the gospel sometimes we ram it down their throat. Maybe think it through; do they even know why they need a savior? I have never told the gospel to a tribe where it has not become good news. Sometimes in our society it's almost bad news because we focus on behavior modification instead of introducing them to God who saved them.

## Questions & Discussion

*Would it make sense if we share just a gospel story or quote a bible verse? Do they have a frame of reference?*

*What would happen if start the gospel stories at the end? Can we share the stories in any order?*

**Storytelling – Lesson 2 Review:**

Why do we tell the gospel story in order?Many times, illiterate tribal people are able to retell the story without missing a beat.Orality is how the tribal people pass down tradition and values.If we just introduce Jesus, He doesn't make much sense if the people don't know about sin and the Father.Chronology begins with a perfect world created by God and His relationship with man.After sin is discussed and defined. After, every story after points to a price for sinning, something has to die.The stories are painting the picture of the need for a sacrifice for "sin."Also, there are key stories, even from the beginning, that point to a promise and hope of a sacrifice for sins.With a beginning and end, the stories begin to clarify the need for a better sacrifice than just animal blood.Through chronological storytelling, when Christ is presented His life and purpose make clear sense as the tribes hear.Do people understand the gospel?Why in our society is the gospel considered bad news sometimes?

# Chronological Storytelling: Storytelling – Lesson 3

Welcome back to the Chronological Storytelling class. We are in the last segment. We were talking about orality and chronological storytelling and we want to show you now a movie to show you how this works. When you watch you can take that truth what you learn you will learn chronologically why we do it orally. Your teacher will now start teaching you the stories. There are twenty-nine stories. Discuss with your group—it's going to be awesome. God bless you I'm super excited for God's assignment for you.

# Gospel Stories

## Story 1—God and the Spirits

Before there was heaven, earth, or anything else, there was God. God existed before everything else. He has never been created. He has no beginning. He has always existed. He will always exist. He will never die. God is Spirit. He is everywhere at the same time. He is here with us right now, but He also has a throne room in heaven where He sits on His throne. His throne is like a fire. His clothes are shining. The light and glory that shines from God is brighter than the sun.

God is the one who created everything else. First God created the angels. He created many, many angels with great wisdom and strength. He placed them in heaven to serve and worship Him. Day and night, they worship Him. They bow before Him saying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty." The greatest angel was called Lucifer. God gave him a position over all the other angels, as worship leader.

One day, Lucifer thought, "I am a unique angel. I am the most beautiful and intelligent one. I want to be God. I want all the angels to worship me instead of Him. I have to take the position of God. I will fight against God to take His position." These were very evil thoughts Lucifer had. He should have obeyed God and done what God had told him, to have all the angels worship God, but Lucifer did not obey God. Many of God's other angels followed Lucifer to fight against God.

Already when Lucifer had these thoughts in his mind, God was on His throne watching everything. He created all of the spirits. He knew what they were thinking and planning. He knew that Lucifer had become proud and wanted to take the place of his Maker. Nothing can be kept secret from God. Would God allow Lucifer to take His position? No, He would not allow Lucifer to take His position. No one can take God's place, because He is the only true God and the Maker of everybody else.

What do you think God did? God didn't have to start a fight with Lucifer. He did not have to arrange His fighters to fight with him. God has all the power. He simply took Lucifer and all the angels that followed him and threw them out of heaven. They had chosen to be His enemies. They could not stay with Him in heaven anymore. Lucifer and his angels who followed him are now on earth. Lucifer is now called Satan. His angel followers are called demons. They now live on earth. They hate God and everything He loves. Still today, they are fighting against God trying to make people worship them instead of God. God has prepared a terrible place of everlasting punishment, called the lake of fire, where He is one day going to send Satan and all the demons. There they are going to suffer greatly forever. God does not tolerate disobedience. God always punishes those who fight against Him.

God now had an enemy, Satan, trying to stop everything that He did. God had a plan to do something wonderful. He wanted to do something fantastic. No one, not even Satan, could stop or hinder Him from fulfilling His plan. In the next story, you will hear about what God planned to do.

# Story 2—Creation of the World

God had a fantastic plan in His heart. He wanted to create something more wonderful than He ever created before, more beautiful than the angels. He wanted to make someone in the image of Himself, like Him, that He would love and care for very much. Do you know who it was that He was planning to create? Yes, it was mankind. Before He created man, God wanted to prepare the best and most beautiful place where man could live and have everything he needed.

So God started to prepare this home. First, He created the earth. After He made the earth, it was empty and completely dark. There was no light anywhere. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God only had to speak one word to create light. You and I, we can't create anything by speaking, but God created everything by just commanding it to be. For God everything is possible. He has all the power. He can do anything. God is greater than everything else. He is the king of the universe.

Then God created the sky, sun, moon, and stars. God made all the water on the earth. He made many spring and rivers. He made all the vegetation: flowers, bushes, and trees with fruit. He gave the fruits many different colors, tastes, and shapes. He did all this for us. God created all the animals. He made all the birds flying in the sky. He created the animals that walk on the earth, thousands of different animals, like camels, cows, goats, and sheep. When God finished all this, He looked and saw that it was good. Every time He created something, He said, "It is good." It was really good. The world was now prepared for man to live. God had prepared it perfect so man would have everything he would need.

When God created man, it was the most important and special thing He created. He didn't create him the same way as everything else. He didn't just say a word. God carefully formed the man's body, from dust, with His own hands. When He was finished, He blew His own breath into the man's nose. Life came into the man's body. God gave life to the first man. God loved the man very much. He gave him the name Adam. God created man not like the animals, but like Himself. He gave wisdom to Adam in order for him to think and choose. God didn't want to force man to love and obey Him, but wanted man to choose to love and obey Him. He also gave man a spirit that could know God and live eternally. God created man to have a relationship with God.

Even though Adam had many animals around him, God saw that Adam was lonely. Adam needed someone like himself that could do the same things as him and help him. None of the animals could be a good companion for him. God decided to give Adam a wife. God made Adam fall into a deep sleep, took one of his ribs, and from that rib God formed a woman. God gave the woman to Adam to be his wife. Adam called the woman Eve. He was very pleased by the gift God had given him. God told Adam and Eve they should have many children. Adam and Eve were the first man and woman on earth. All people in the world are descendants from Adam and Eve including you and I. This is not the end of the story, but only the beginning. Listen to the next story and you will hear what very soon happened to Adam and Eve.

# Story 3—Fall of Man

Now God had finished creating Adam and Eve. He was very pleased with them. There was no fault with them. They were perfectly healthy. There wasn't any sickness, death, hate, fighting, poverty or sorrow. God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden, called Eden, that He made especially for them. It was full of many trees with fruits and vegetables growing on them. There were always ripe fruits for Adam and Eve to eat. There were lots of springs with clean and fresh water very close. They had everything they needed.

Best of all, God was their friend. They lived in peace with God in the garden. In the middle of this garden, there were two special trees, one called the tree of life. If Adam and Eve were to live forever, they had to eat from the fruit of the tree of life. There was also the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam and Eve, "You can eat from all of the trees in the garden, except from this one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from this tree you will die." Why did God say they would die if they ate that fruit? Because if they ate that fruit they would disobey God, just like Satan, then just like Satan they would have to be punished. They would be separated from God and die. They would go to the same terrible place God had prepared for Satan and his demons.

Do you remember that Satan was the great enemy of God? Satan had seen God create man and all the fantastic things He created. He knew that God loved Adam and Eve. Satan hates God. Satan wanted to destroy the man and woman that God had made. He decided to try to trick them to disobey God. One day Satan went into a snake's body and met with Eve in the garden. He began to speak to Eve. He said to

her, "You will not die if you eat the forbidden fruit. God doesn't want you to eat it because He knows when you eat it you will become wise like Him." Satan lied—what he said about God was not true. Eve was standing there listening to Satan. She thought she wanted to be wise like God and the fruit looked very good. Eve took a fruit and she ate it. She also gave the fruit to Adam and he ate. Adam and Eve both followed Satan and disobeyed God. They had now become friends of God's enemy Satan. They were his followers and God's enemies. They were no longer in peace with God.

Adam and Eve now realized they were naked. Adam and Eve were naked before they disobeyed God, but they were not embarrassed by it. Now they had changed. They were embarrassed by their nakedness. They tried to make clothes for themselves with leaves. In the evening, God came to Eden to visit Adam and Eve as He usually did. This time when Adam and Eve heard that He was coming, they became scared and hid from God among the trees. They had never been afraid of Him before, but now they had disobeyed Him. They no longer had peace with Him. They were afraid of Him. God loved Adam and Eve. He called for them saying, "Adam, where are you?" Adam answered, "I am afraid of you, so I hid." God asked Adam, "Have you eaten from the tree which I commanded you not to eat?" God already knew what Adam had done, because He is everywhere and sees everything. God asked these questions because He wanted to give Adam a chance to confess what he had done and ask God to forgive him. Adam didn't ask for forgiveness, instead he blamed Eve. He said, "It was the woman who gave it to me." God then asked Eve what she had done. Eve blamed the snake. Both Adam and Eve blamed someone else. They could not escape God's punishment for what they had done by blaming somebody else.

No one can escape God's punishment. What do you think God will do with Adam and Eve?

# Story 4—God's Punishment and Promise

Adam and Eve both disobeyed God by eating the fruit He told them not to eat. God said to Adam and Eve: "You have disobeyed me and therefore you have to be punished. You have to be separated from me. You have to leave the garden and stay outside away from me and the tree of life. One day you will have to die and go to the same terrible place of punishment I prepared for Satan and his demons. Don't you remember that I told you that you would die if you ate from that fruit?"

Satan was nearby and heard all God said to Adam and Eve. He was laughing. He thought he had beaten God. He thought he had destroyed the relationship between God and mankind forever. God then turned to Satan. He said loudly so Adam and Eve could hear, "One day I will send a Deliverer to this earth. He will be the seed of a woman. He will crush you, deliver mankind from your power, sin, and the punishment of death and bring mankind back to me." Why did God give this promise to Adam and Eve? He could have just left them to die and go to the everlasting punishment they deserved. God still loved Adam and Eve, therefore, He gave this promise, to send a Deliverer that would bring mankind back to Him and restore their peace with Him. You care about the peace of the Borena, but God cares even more about His peace with mankind.

After God had spoken to Adam, Eve, and Satan, God took an animal and killed it. He took the skin from that animal and made clothes for Adam and Eve. That was the first time something died in the world. God did this to remind Adam and Eve the punishment for disobeying God is death. After that, God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. God placed an angel with a flaming sword to guard the entrance

to the garden. No one, not even Adam or Eve, could ever be able to come into the garden to the tree of life again.

This was a very sad day for Adam and Eve. They had been living together with God and been his friends, but now they would not be together with Him anymore. Outside the garden their life became very tough. They had to work hard on their field to be able to get any food to survive. Adam and Eve grew old outside the garden. They had many children and after many years died. It was not God's plan from the beginning that Adam and Eve would die. They had disobeyed God and the punishment was death.

Adam and Eve had been separated from God. All Adam and Eve's children and descendants, which is all of us today, were born separated from God. It's like a branch with small twigs on it. When the branch is broken off from the tree, the twigs will die like the branch. The tree is a picture of God. The branch is a picture of Adam and Eve. The twigs on the branch are pictures of their descendants. When Adam and Eve were separated from God, all of us as their descendants were also separated from God and will all die like them.

# Story 5—Cain and Abel

Two of Adam and Eve's sons were Cain and Abel. Abel worked with keeping animals. Cain worked with the soil. One day both Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. Abel brought from his animals one firstborn lamb. He killed it, let the blood run out and offered it. Abel remembered what his parents told him about what happened in the Garden of Eden when they disobeyed God. God had killed an animal to show them that the punishment for sin is death. Now Abel killed a lamb and offered it to God. He showed God he understood he also was a sinner that deserved the punishment of God and needed God's forgiveness. He was hoping and waiting for the Deliverer God had promised to send Adam and Eve. Because of this, God accepted Abel's offering and forgave Abel his sin.

Cain brought some of the fruit of his soil and offered it to God. Cain did not believe and trust in God like Abel did. He didn't agree with God that he was a sinner that deserved the punishment of death. Therefore, God didn't accept the offering and could not forgive Cain his sin. Was it because Cain was a bigger sinner than Abel that God did not accept his offering? No, they were both sinners. It was because Cain did not believe that he was a sinner that needed God's forgiveness.

Cain was very angry and jealous of his brother, Abel, because his brother's offering had been accepted but not his. Cain had bad thoughts in his mind. Before Adam and Eve sinned all of their thoughts were good all of the time. When they sinned they became sinners. Their minds were changed and bad thoughts began to come into their minds. Cain was so angry and jealous he decided to kill his brother. He said to Abel,

"Let us go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked Abel and killed him. This was the first murder in the history of man.

God saw Cain had murdered Abel. God asked him, "Where is your brother Abel? What have you done?" God asked Cain this question, because He wanted to give Cain a chance to confess. He wanted him to say, "I killed my brother. I have sinned against You. Please forgive me." Cain didn't confess what he had done. He lied saying, "I don't know where my brother is." God said to Cain, "I know you killed your brother. Now you have to be punished." God always has to punish everyone who sins against other people. After this Cain went away to live in another place. When we sin we are against both God and our community. We will not get acceptance from anyone.

Cain, his brothers, and his sisters had many children and grandchildren. Many generations passed by. Many people came and filled the earth. All these people were sinners from birth, because Adam was a sinner. They were all his descendants. They also loved their sin. They refused to agree with God. They were sinning more and more just like Cain. They were jealous and hateful. They lied and tricked one another. They were adulterers and thieves. They even murdered people. They had no thought at all about how they should please God. God saw all their sin. He loved people, but He hated their sin. He had to punish their sin. What do you think God did with these sinful people?

# Story 6—Noah's Ark

The descendants of Adam had filled the earth. They were all sinning greatly against God. God decided He would send a flood over the earth to destroy all who would not repent and trust Him, because the punishment of sin is death. Among all these evil people there was one man who listened to and trusted God. His name was Noah. Noah believed in God like Abel had done. He believed that he was a sinner that deserved punishment. He was waiting for the Deliverer God had promised to send Adam and Eve. Because of this, God decided to accept and save Noah from the flood. God told Noah what He was going to do. He told Noah to build an ark, a big boat, so all those who trusted in God would go into the boat and be saved.

God gave Noah detailed instructions on how to build this ark. Noah could not just make up the plans for this ark and make it his own way. Noah built the ark exactly like God told him. He also told all the people living on the earth what God had said. He told them God hated their sin and was going to send a flood to destroy everything in the world. He told them if they changed their attitude and believed in God, they could enter the ark and be saved. The people did not want to listen. They loved their sinful ways and would not repent.

For 100 years Noah was building the ark. During this time God was waiting for the people to change their mind. The people did not. Instead they were laughing at Noah. They said, "You have been building your boat for 100 years. Where is the flood? The flood will never come." Do you think God would send the flood? Yes, He would. God always does what He says He will do.

It was now time for God to punish the people. God told Noah to take his family and two of all the animals, male and female, with him into the ark. Noah did. He brought cows, goats, camels, and all other wild animals. They all went into the ark. No other people followed Noah into the ark or believed in God. When Noah and his family were safely in the ark, God shut the door. He did not let any other people in. Now, God sent the rain. He made it rain for forty days until the whole earth was covered, even the highest mountains. Everyone outside the ark was destroyed by God. Everyone died. There was only one way they could be saved, if they believed in God and the way He told them—the ark. No one had believed. Only Noah, his family and the animals with them survived, because they had believed in God and His words.

When everybody was dead, except Noah and his family, God stopped the rain. He sent a wind to dry up the water and dry land appeared. Noah, his family, all the animals came out of the ark. Noah built an altar and offered animals to God. By doing that, Noah showed God he believed he was sinner, deserved to die, just like the animal he slaughtered died, and trusted in God to save him.

God also promised He would never again destroy the earth by flood. He gave them the rainbow as a sign of this promise. Every time we see the rainbow, we can remember and know God keeps His promises. Even though God had destroyed all things on earth, except Noah and his family, He had not forgotten His promise to send mankind a Deliverer. Listen to the next story I will tell you how God started to prepare for the Deliverer to come.

# Story 7—Sodom and Gomorrah and Abraham's promise

After the flood, Noah's sons had many children. They spread over all the earth. Many years and generations passed by, but these generations after Noah and his sons did not follow God like Noah did. Instead they turned away from God and did not even care about Him. They were sinning greatly. Instead of worshipping God, they worshipped idols.

In this time, there was almost no one who believed in God, but there was one man who did. His name was Abraham. He believed and trusted in God just like Abel and Noah. He knew he was a sinner, that deserved to be punished, but he believed God would save him through the coming Deliverer. Abraham believed and trusted in God. God accepted Abraham as if he had no sin. God spoke to Abraham many times and told Abraham what He was going to do.

God told Abraham that he wanted to destroy the two cities close to where Abraham was living. The cities were named Sodom and Gomorrah. The people were just like the people during the time of Noah. They forgot about God and what He wanted them to do. They were sinning greatly. They were adulterers and murderers. The people were having sex with animals. Men got married to men and women to women. The nephew of Abraham, Lot, and his family lived in Sodom. One day God sent two angels to warn Lot He would destroy the city the following morning. The following morning the angels told Lot to take his wife and two daughters away from the city, because God would destroy it. The angels told Lot not to look back while running to the mountains.

When Lot and his family had left the city, suddenly, the Lord rained fire from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah. The two cities were consumed by fire. Every sinner in the city was killed. When Lot and his family had already escaped from Sodom, Lot's wife looked back. She did not obey the words of the angels and was turned into a pillar of salt.

Abraham did not live in these wicked cities. He was a nomad with many cattle. Abraham was moving from well to well, always staying in a tent. One night God took Abraham outside his tent, told him to look up into the sky and see if he could count the stars. God then told Abraham his descendants would be as many as the stars and that all the people on the earth would be blessed through his descendants. God's plan was that one of Abraham's descendants would be the Deliverer who would bless all people. Do you remember what God had promised to Adam and Eve? Do you remember He would send a Deliverer who would deliver mankind from Satan's power, sin, punishment of death in the lake of fire, and bring mankind back to God? Now God promised this to Abraham, because He wanted Abraham and his descendants to be prepared to receive the Deliverer.

When Abraham received this promise, he and his wife didn't have any children. They both grew old without having any children. Finally when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old and it was naturally impossible for them to have a child, God made a miracle. Sarah gave birth to a son. Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac. They loved Isaac very much. Through him they could now become a great people. They believed in God's promise, the coming Deliverer would come from Isaac's descendants. Very special things would happen to Abraham and Isaac. Listen to the next story and I will tell you what happened.

# Story 8—Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac

God had given Abraham and Sarah their promised son, Isaac. They believed the coming Deliverer would come through Isaac. One day God told Abraham to do a most unexpected and difficult thing. God wanted to see if Abraham loved Isaac more than he loved God. God told Abraham to take his only son, Isaac, whom he loved, and go to a mountain He would show him. There he should sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering. This was very difficult for Abraham, because he loved Isaac very much. How could the Deliverer be one of Isaac's descendants if Abraham would kill Isaac? But Abraham trusted God. He knew God would not lie, but would keep His promises. Abraham believed even if he did kill Isaac in obedience to God, God would raise Isaac from the dead.

Abraham obeyed. Early the next morning he took his son Isaac and set out for the place God had told him about. As the two of them went on together, Isaac asked Abraham, "Father, the fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered Isaac, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." The two of them continued on. When they reached the place God had told them about, Abraham built an altar there. He bound his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar. He reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. There was no way for Isaac to escape. He was born a sinner, and like everybody else he deserved to die. Only God could save him. Only God could save Noah and his family from the flood and now only God could save Isaac from being killed. Do you think God saved Isaac?

Just as Abraham was about to kill Isaac, God stopped Him. He called out from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham, don't touch your son.

Now I know you love me." Isaac could not be saved if there was no other sacrifice to die instead of him. God provided a sacrifice. When Abraham looked up he saw a lamb caught by its horns in a bush. If it had been caught by another part of its body, it would have injured itself and not been perfect without blemish. It would not have been an acceptable offering to God. God is perfect and will only accept whatever is perfect.

Abraham took Isaac off the altar, put the lamb, which God had provided, on the altar and killed it. God provided the lamb to die instead of Isaac. Abraham called that place, "The Lord will provide." He believed like how God provided a lamb to die instead of Isaac, God would also provide the Deliverer to rescue mankind from the punishment of sin, just as God had promised Adam and Eve in the garden.

Isaac grew up and had two sons. One of them was called Israel. Israel had many sons. He and all of his family moved from their country down to the land of Egypt. After some generations, they had become a great people group in Egypt called the Israelites. They were very rich. They had many cows, goats, and sheep. Satan knew the coming Deliverer would come through the Israelites. He didn't want any Deliverer to come and deliver mankind from his power. Therefore, he wanted to destroy the Israelites. He decided he would make it very difficult for them. The Israelites became slaves under the King of Egypt, Pharoah. It was a terrible time for them. They had to work hard building buildings for Pharaoh. They were suffering a lot. Pharaoh even killed all their baby boys. Do you think God had abandoned the Israelites or He would not keep His promise about them? Listen to the next story and I will tell you what happened.

# Story 9—The Passover

Abraham and Isaac's descendants, the Israelites, were living as slaves in Egypt. It was a terrible time. When they cried to God to save them, God gave them a leader, Moses. Moses went to Pharaoh and told him to let God's people, the Israelites, go. Pharaoh refused; therefore, God sent many plagues over Egypt. Every plague was very difficult for the Egyptian people. Still, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go. Finally Moses went to Pharaoh and told him, "This is what the Lord says, 'At midnight I will go throughout all of Egypt. Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh to the firstborn of all the cattle as well. Since you did not obey me and let the Israelites go you will be punished in this way.'"

If the Israelites were to be saved from this, they had to believe in God and obey Him. God told them exactly what they were to do. They had to do it exactly as God told them. God told them that they had to take a lamb, one for each household. The lamb they were to choose had to be perfect like the lamb that was offered instead of Isaac. They were to slaughter the lambs the same evening that the Lord would go through the land. They had to let the blood flow out and catch it in a basin. They had to put the blood on both sides and the top of the door where they would be eating the lamb. They had to stay in the same house the whole night. God promised them when He would see the blood on the doorframe, He would pass over and their firstborn would not die. The blood from the slaughtered lamb would be the sign that a lamb in that house died instead of the firstborn.

The day came when the Lord was going to go through the land, and all the Israelites did exactly as the Lord instructed them. At midnight

the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt. Pharaoh and all the Egyptians woke up during the night. There was a loud wailing, for there was not an Egyptian house where the firstborn had not died. All those who had obeyed the Lord, slaughtered a lamb and put the blood on their doorposts, were saved. None of their firstborns died. All of the Israelites obeyed and were saved. The lambs had died instead of their firstborns just like a lamb had died instead of Isaac.

During this night even Pharaoh's own son, who he loved very much, died. In the middle of the night Pharaoh called Moses. He told him to take the Israelites out of Egypt immediately. That same night all the Israelites left Egypt. The Egyptians gave the Israelites all their gold, silver, cows, camels, and riches.

For hundreds of years the Israelites had been oppressed by Pharaoh and the Egyptians. They had been in great pain, but now the Israelites were free. God had heard their cries and saved them. This was a big day. God told the Israelites to celebrate this at a certain time every year to remember what God did. They were to call this celebration Passover to remember how God passed over every house that had blood on the doorpost and saved them. When the Israelites left Egypt, they reached a sea called the Red Sea. Pharaoh changed his mind. He sent his army to kill the Israelites. God did a miracle. He divided the sea in front of the Israelites so they could go through it on dry land. The Egyptians followed them into the sea, but when the Israelites were safe on the other side, God again drove the waters back over the Egyptians. The whole Egyptian army died in the waters. God punishes all those who fight against Him, but saves those who trust and believe in Him.

# Story 10—The Ten Commandments

God had delivered the Israelites from slavery and brought them out of Egypt. God began to lead them back to the land, called Canaan, that He had promised to give to the Israelites. The Israelites reached a mountain called Sinai. There they camped in their tents with their cattle around the mountain. Moses went up on the mountain. God spoke with him there. God told Moses: "Tell the Israelites that I'm going to give them My commandments. If they obey them fully, then I will be with and bless them. I will bless their families and cattle. I will send rain on their land. If they don't obey My commandments, then I will have to punish them. Hunger, sickness, and death will come upon them."

Moses went down from the mountain to the Israelites and told them. The Israelites all answered Moses, "Tell God we will obey His commandments fully." The Israelites had forgotten they were sinners. They did not believe like Noah and Abraham they were sinners. Instead they thought they could obey all the commandments fully. Moses went up on the mountain again. He told God what the people had answered. God said, "Tell the people I'm going to come down to the bottom of the mountain to speak with them. I will tell them My commandments. When I come down, they cannot touch the mountain, because I am holy and they are sinners. If they touch the mountain, they will die."

Moses went down. He told the people everything God had said. They put up boundaries all around the mountain so no one would come close and touch it. God came down to the people. When He came down it was like thunder. The mountain was shaking. The whole mountain was covered by fire and smoke. All the people were very scared. They realized God was a holy God. God spoke with a loud voice. He said,

"I'm the Lord, your God, who saved you from slavery in Egypt. These are my commandments to you. If you obey them, I will be with you and bless you, but if you break even one of them you will be punished."

- The first commandment is you shall have no other gods than Me. The second commandment is you shall not make any picture or statue of anything in heaven or on earth and worship it. You shall not worship anything else but Me. The third commandment is you shall not misuse My name. The fourth commandment is you shall rest on the seventh day of the week. The fifth commandment is you shall honor your father and mother. The sixth commandment is you shall not murder any person. Even if you just hate another person you are a murderer and have broken this commandment. The seventh commandment is you shall not commit adultery. The eighth commandment is you shall not steal. The ninth commandment is you shall not lie. The tenth commandment is you shall not desire anything that belongs to someone else, not their house, wife, servants, cattle, or anything else. If you are jealous of someone because of what they have you have broken this commandment.

These were the commandments God told the Israelites from the mountain. He also gave these commandments to us. If we break even one of these commandments, we have sinned and deserve punishment. Have you ever broken any one of these commandments? Yes, we have all broken these commandments. We are all sinners.

# Story 11—The Golden Calf

After God revealed himself to the people on Mount Sinai and told them the Ten Commandments, He went back up the mountain. Moses went up the mountain to God again. God then wrote the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. He gave them to Moses so the Israelites would have these tablets and not forget the commandments. He wanted them to remember the commandments. The commandments would make them realize they were sinners who could not obey every command. God wanted them to believe like Noah and Abraham they were sinners who needed God's forgiveness.

Moses stayed on the mountain for a long time with God. When the people saw that Moses was taking a long time in coming down from the mountain, they said, "We don't know what happened to Moses and God. They are gone. Let us now make a god who will lead us." They made a calf out of gold. They danced around it, offered animals to it, bowed before it and worshipped it. They said, "This is the God that brought us out of Egypt."

While the people were dancing around the calf, Moses came down from the mountain. When he saw what they were doing he was very angry, so angry he threw the tablets with the commandments on the ground and broke them. God had to give him new tablets later. Moses took the calf, burned it, and told the people they had sinned greatly against God. God was also very angry. He had just given the commandments to the Israelites. One of them was they should not make a picture or anything else to worship other than Him. The people had all said they would obey God's commandments, but they had already broken them in a terrible way.

God punished the Israelites for their sin. He told Moses to stand at the entrance of the camp and shout, "Everyone who is a follower of Lord God, come here and stand with me." Moses told the people who came to him God commanded them to take their swords, go through the camp and kill all those people who refused to follow God. The people did like Moses told them. That day all who refused to change their minds to follow God were punished and died. If we worship spirits, trees, animals, or anything else created by God or make a picture of anything to worship, like the Israelites did, we have broken God's commandments and deserve His punishment.

God punished the Israelites this time for their sin. He wanted to prepare a way in the future the Israelites could be forgiven of their sins and come to Him. Even though we deserve punishment, God always prepares a way for people to be saved from their punishment. Listen to the next story I will tell you what God prepared for the Israelites.

# Story 12—The Tabernacle and the Sin Offerings

The Israelites had broken the commandments and sinned greatly against God by making the golden calf and worshipping it. God punished them for their sin. God always has to punish sin. The Israelites were sinners. They sinned over and over again by breaking the commandments. God still loved the Israelites. He wanted to make a way for them to be saved from the punishment of their sins. God told Moses how they should do this. They should build a special place called the Tabernacle. There God would live for them to come to Him, be forgiven and saved.

God gave Moses specific instructions on how to build the Tabernacle. It had to be made exactly the way God told Moses. Moses and the Israelites built the Tabernacle exactly the way God had said. This is how it looked. First, there was a big courtyard around the Tabernacle. Just inside the entrance to the courtyard was an altar. When an Israelite wanted to come to God and receive forgiveness for his sins he could bring an animal to this altar. By doing this he was admitting to God he was a sinner who deserved to die, but he asked God to accept the animal's death instead of his own.

Inside the courtyard was the Tabernacle. It was built as a tent so the Israelites could easily bring it when they moved. The Tabernacle had two rooms. The first room was called the Holy Place. Only priests could enter it when they were serving God. The second room was called the Most Holy Place. In this room there was a box called the ark. God's presence was in the ark. This was the place where God lived. In the ark were the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them.

Between the two rooms, there was a thick curtain. If anyone went behind the curtain and entered the Most Holy place, where God was, they would have been killed, because God is holy and the people were sinners. Only the High Priest could go into this room one time a year on a special day. On that day, the High Priest first had to admit the people were sinners. He was to kill an animal and catch its blood in a basin. After he passed behind the thick curtain the High Priest was to sprinkle the blood on the ark. If the High Priest did everything the right way, then God promised to hold off the judgment the Israelites deserved and forgive their sins for the past year. The High Priest had to do this every year, because the animal was not a perfect offering that would take away their sins for all eternity only for the past year.

Now, when Moses and the Israelites had finished building the Tabernacle exactly as God told them to build it, God came to live in the Most Holy place in the Tabernacle. The cloud that guided the Israelites every day covered the Tabernacle. The glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle. This Tabernacle was the way God gave to the Israelites to come to Him and be forgiven for breaking the commandments. We are all sinners just like the Israelites. We have all broken the commandments and deserve to be punished.

Do you think the Tabernacle would continue being the way for the Israelites and us to come to God or would God provide another way? I will soon tell you about God's plan.

# Story 13—The Snake on the Pole and Israel Into Canaan

The Israelites took all their cattle, packed their tents and the Tabernacle and left Mount Sinai to continue their journey to the land of Canaan, which God had promised to give them. For many years the Israelite people were walking in the desert. It was very hot and very dry in the desert. Many times there was no water or food for them or their cattle, but God was their Shepherd and He provided them with water and food in miraculous ways. For example, one time God told Moses to take his staff and strike a rock with it. When he did, water flowed from the rock and there was enough for all the people and their cattle to drink. For food, every day God let bread, called manna, rain down from heaven. God loved and cared about the Israelites like you love and care for your herds of cattle.

Another time, when they did not have any water, the Israelites started to complain to Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to let us die here in the desert?" They had forgotten how God had always given them food and water. They did not believe in God to save them this time. Instead of asking for water, they now complained to Moses.

Because the people did not believe in God, but instead were complaining against Him, God's punishment came upon the Israelites. He sent poisonous snakes among them. The snakes were everywhere, in their tents and out in the open. They were also attacking the people. Many, many people were bitten and many died. The Israelites could not escape the deadly snakes sent by God.

Now the Israelites realized they had sinned and could not save themselves from the punishment they deserved. They went to Moses, confessed their sin and asked Moses to pray to God to take away the snakes. Moses prayed for them. God told Moses, "Because the people admitted they are sinners and asked Me to save them from this punishment, I will make a way they can be saved. Now, make a metal snake and put it up on a pole. Anyone who is bitten can look at it, be healed and not die." Moses made a metal snake and put it on a pole. When a snake bit anyone, they could just look at the metal snake and not die. It would not be the snake that healed them but God.

Only the ones who did exactly as God had told them to do were healed and did not die. Those who prayed but did not look were not healed. Only the ones who looked at the snake were healed. God will always make a way to be saved from punishment for sin for those who admit they are sinners and trust in God to save them.

After many years in the desert, God led the Israelites into the land of Canaan. God helped the Israelites to conquer the peoples there and gave them the whole land as their inheritance. Satan had tried to destroy the Israelites in many ways, because the Deliverer would be one of the Israelites, Abraham's descendants. Satan had tried to destroy them in slavery in Egypt. He tried to kill them by the Red Sea. Each time, God saved and protected the Israelites. He saved them from slavery in Egypt, led them through the Red Sea, protected and gave them everything in the desert and now He had given them their own land. God would not let the Israelites be destroyed. He would not let anyone hinder Him in fulfilling His plan to send the Deliverer through the Israelites. Listen to the next story and I will soon tell you more about this Deliverer.

# Story 14—David and Solomon and Israel's Sin

God had led the Israelites through the desert into the land of Canaan. He had helped them to conquer the people there. Now they lived in their own land, the land of Canaan, which is now called Israel. After some generations passed, the Israelites asked God to give them a king that could lead them like the other countries had. God gave them kings. One of the first kings was a man called David. David was a man after God's heart.

Before David became a king, he was a young shepherd taking care of his sheep. David knew God when he was watching his sheep. He used to sing and praise God. He sung, "The Lord is my Shepherd. I have everything I need." David called God his Shepherd. God was the one who led David. Just like David led his sheep to places with water and grass, God was leading, caring for, and giving David everything he needed. David had seen that God is a good God who cared for him all his life. Just as David protected his sheep from wild animals, God protected David from all evil. Just like David's sheep followed and obeyed him, David wanted to follow his Shepherd, God, all the days of his life. He did not not want to follow God's enemy like Adam and Eve had done. He wanted to live in peace with God like a sheep with its shepherd.

God sent His prophet, a messenger, to anoint David to be king. David ruled Israel for many years. He was a godly king who led the Israelites to worship God. Just like David, all the Israelites followed God. God was their Shepherd. David believed like Abel, Noah, and Abraham he was a sinner who needed God's forgiveness. He waited for the promised Deliverer. Therefore God gave David the same promise He had given Abraham, David's forefather. He promised one of David's

descendants would be the Deliverer, and the Deliverer would be King and rule forever.

When David died, his son, Solomon, became the king. At this time, all the Israelites were living in houses made of stone, but the Tabernacle was still a tent. Therefore Solomon built a house of stone for God, but in the same way the Tabernacle was built, with the Holy place and the Holy of Holies. They called it the Temple. For a while, the Israelites were worshipping God and coming to God in the way He had shown bringing sacrifices to the Temple. Every year, the High Priest brought the blood of animals into the Holy of Holies to receive forgiveness for the people.

After Solomon died, other kings came. After some time, the people and the king of the Israelites began to forget everything God had done, how He had brought them out of Egypt into Canaan. Instead, they began to look to other countries and the false gods they were worshipping. They turned away from the true God. Instead, they brought sacrifices to worship these false gods. They even sacrificed children to these false gods.

This made God very sad. He loved the people, but had to punish them for their sin. God let their enemies come and conquer the Israelites. These enemies destroyed their cities and even destroyed the Temple. The enemies also took many of the Israelites, brought them to foreign countries and made them their slaves. When the Israelites were slaves in other countries, they realized they had disobeyed God and sinned greatly against Him. They confessed to God they were sinners. They prayed He would bring them back to their land, which He once had given them. When God saw the Israelites turned to Him with all their

hearts asking Him to forgive and save them, He delivered them from slavery and brought them back to their land, Israel. God has to punish sin, but He will always forgive and save those who turn back to Him and ask Him to save them.

# Story 15—Prophesies About the Deliverer

The Israelites had been in slavery because of their sin. When they turned to God, He had saved them and brought them back to their land again. When the Israelites came back to Israel they rebuilt their cities and they also rebuilt the temple. For a time the Israelites worshipped God. They brought their sacrifices to the temple as God had told them to do. But the Israelites were sinners like all people because of their forefather Adam's sin. Even though they tried to obey God, they could not. After a time, they turned away from God again and started to worship false gods. When they did this the same thing happened. Their enemies came and conquered them. They destroyed their cities and the Temple and brought them away as slaves again. This happened many times, over and over again.

This was a very bad situation. God was longing to live together with the people and have a good relationship with them. He longed to be their Shepherd like He had been David's Shepherd, to take care of them and for them to follow and obey Him. They were sinners that could not stop sinning. They were always sinning and the Temple was destroyed again and again. Therefore, God spoke through His prophets and promised the people that soon He would send the Deliverer. The Deliverer would come and deliver the people from their sin. He would forgive them all for their sins and bring them back to God and the same relationship that Adam and Eve had had with God.

God also said through the prophets that when the Deliverer would come, God would no longer live in the Temple, that so easily could be destroyed, but instead God would come and live in the people's hearts. The people's hearts would be His new temple. God told the prophets

many special things about the Deliverer to prepare them to receive Him. He said that the Deliverer would become three things, which no one else had been able to become before. He would become the final King, the final High Priest, and the final Prophet who would forever bring the people back to God.

God told the prophets that the Deliverer would not have a human father. His mother would be a virgin so He would be the seed of a woman. The Deliverer would be born in a town called Bethlehem. He would be filled with the Spirit of the Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, and knowledge. He would be rejected by the Israelites and be hated without cause. He would be betrayed by a friend and sold for thirty pieces of silver. He would greatly suffer. He would be spat upon, beaten, and mocked. He would not open His mouth to defend Himself. He would be led like a lamb to the slaughter. His hands and feet would be pierced. He would be crushed for our sins. He would bear the sins, sorrows and sicknesses of many. By His wounds we would be healed. They also said that the Deliverer would die but rise again and go back to heaven. In the next story I will tell you how God is beginning to fulfill these plans.

# Story 16—Jesus's Birth

Many years had passed in Israel since the last prophet had prophesied, but God had not forgotten His promise. Finally, the time came when God decided to send the Deliverer. God sent an angel named Gabriel to a virgin named Mary. Mary believed in God. She trusted in God to send the Deliverer and that they would be saved through this Deliverer. Therefore God chose her to be the mother of the Deliverer. Mary was the woman God had been speaking about when He told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden the Deliverer would be the seed of a woman. Mary was also the virgin that the prophets had been speaking of when they said that the Deliverer would be the Son of a virgin. When the angel Gabriel came to Mary, he told her that she would give birth to a son and that she was to name Him Jesus. Jesus means Savior. Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? How can I have a child when I am a virgin?" Gabriel answered that the Spirit of God would make a miracle in her and she would become pregnant. The child would not have a human father. He would be called the Son of God. He would be given by the Spirit of God.

All that the angel Gabriel told Mary happened. She became pregnant, though she had never been with any man. Mary had promised to be married to a man named Joseph. Joseph was a descendant of King David; therefore, God chose him to be the earthly father of the Deliverer. It was God's promise to David that the Deliverer would be one of his descendants. One night when Joseph was sleeping, an angel came to him in his dreams. The angel said to him, "Joseph, son of David, you will be married to Mary and she will give birth to a son. You will give

him the name Emmanuel, which means 'God with us.' God will come down to become a man and live with people here in this world."

Joseph did what the angel had said and married Mary. After some time, Mary gave birth to a son and named Him Jesus. Jesus was born in a barn in the town called Bethlehem. This was just as the prophets had said. They said the Savior would be born in Bethlehem.

One of your Borena stories tells of this. God one time came to sleep in a barn. Some of the men in Borena used to take away a pole from the entrance to the barn in the morning as a memory of this and symbol for God to leave before the light of the morning comes. This happened when Jesus was born. Jesus was God and He came down and slept in a barn.

In the same region some shepherds were watching their flocks. Suddenly an angel appeared to them and said, "I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord." Then a great amount of angels appeared and they all sang praises to the Lord. After this, the shepherds went to see the baby Jesus. Also, wise men from a country far away came to worship Jesus. They had been waiting for the Deliverer to come. They saw a new star in the sky that led them to where Jesus was. When they found Him they bowed down, worshipped Him, and gave Him gifts. Was it right for the wise men to worship Jesus? God had written in the law, which He gave to the Israelites, that only God should be worshipped. Do you think it was wrong of these men to worship Jesus? No, because Jesus was God. Finally the promised Deliverer that everyone had been waiting for had come to earth. Jesus had a great work to do here, but Satan would continue trying to destroy God's plan. Listen to the next story and you will hear what happened.

# Story 17—The Lamb of God, Jesus's Baptism, and Temptation

Jesus grew up and became a man. At this time there was another man named John. He prepared the people for the coming Deliverer. John taught the people that they had to admit they were sinners and they needed a savior to save them from the punishment they deserved. People came from every part of Israel to listen to John. John baptized many people by dipping them under water. By being dipped under water, the people showed that they agreed they were sinners that deserved death, but they were trusting in God to send the Deliverer to save them.

One day when John was teaching, he saw Jesus coming towards him. John pointed at Jesus and said to the people, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" Do you remember that God provided a lamb to die instead of Isaac? Do you remember how God had told the Israelites that if they came to the Tabernacle and killed a lamb they would be forgiven their sins for the past? Now, John said that Jesus was the Lamb, given by God, to take away the sins of the world. Do you remember that the lamb that Abraham sacrificed instead of Isaac and the lambs sacrificed in the Tabernacle had to be perfect? Also, Jesus, the Lamb of God, had to be perfect.

Jesus wanted to be baptized by John, but John tried to hinder Him knowing that he needed to be baptized by Jesus. Jesus wanted to be baptized not because He was a sinner and needed a savior like all the others who were baptized by John. He wanted to be a good example to the Israelites showing them the right thing to do. So John baptized Jesus. When Jesus came up out of the water heaven opened up and the people could see the Spirit of God descending like a dove on Him. A

voice came from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I love, with Him I am well pleased." God the Father in heaven called Jesus, His Son, and God sent His Spirit upon Jesus. John said to the people, "I baptize you with water. But He who comes after me, Jesus, He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

After this God sent Jesus out into the desert to be tested by Satan. Jesus was fasting and praying for forty days. At the end of the forty days Jesus was very hungry and tired. Then Satan came to him. Satan would try to tempt Jesus like he had tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He would try to make Jesus obey him just like Adam and Eve had done. He wanted Jesus to sin like them, so that he would not be the perfect Lamb of God anymore. Satan said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Even though Jesus was very hungry and even though He had the power to make bread from the stone, Jesus refused to obey Satan. Then Satan led Jesus up to a high place and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. Satan said to Jesus, "If you fall down and worship me I will give you the authority over all these kingdoms. For it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want." But again Jesus refused to obey, he refused to worship Satan. He answered, "It is written 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" Jesus did not fall into sin like Adam and Eve had done when Satan tempted them. When Satan had finished all this tempting, he left Jesus and angels came and attended Jesus.

Jesus was tempted by Satan many more times after this. He was tempted in everything like you and me. But Jesus never sinned. He lived perfect. He never thought, said, or did anything that was wrong.

He obeyed God in everything. Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God. Jesus came with a very special message to the people. Next time I will tell you more about that.

# Story 18—The Kingdom of God, the Men in the Temple, and Nicodemus

After Jesus had been tempted by Satan, He came back to the people and began to speak to them. Many people came to listen to Jesus. They were amazed over His teaching because He explained to them the writings of Moses and the prophets in a more understandable way than any teacher had done before. Jesus said to the people: "You have to repent and realize that you are sinners in need of a Savior. You have to get ready for the kingdom of God because the kingdom of God is near. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, Satan has been king over this world and everybody has been in Satan's kingdom. Now the kingdom of God is near and people will be brought from the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom of God."

Among the people who were listening to Jesus were many of the religious leaders in Israel. They did not like Jesus teaching. They did not believe like their forefathers Noah, Abraham, and Moses that they were sinners in need of a savior. They thought they were already were in God's kingdom and not in Satan's. They thought that it was enough if they did many good things and tried to keep every one of God's commands. Jesus knew what they were thinking so he said: "Let me tell you a story. Two men went to the temple to pray. One was a religious leader and one was a known sinner among the people. The religious leader prayed like this, 'God, I thank you that I am not a sinner. I'm not a robber or murderer. Thank you that I'm not like that sinner over there. I fast twice a week and I give a tenth of all I get.' But the other man stood at a distance. He did not even look up to heaven, but he beat his breast and said, 'God have mercy on me, I'm a sinner.'" Then Jesus told the people, "This man

went home justified and forgiven by God because he believed like Abel, Noah, and Abraham that he was a sinner that needed God's forgiveness. The religious leader did not go home justified. God could not forgive him his sins because he did not admit that he was a sinner."

One of the religious leaders who was standing there listening to this story was named Nicodemus. When he heard what Jesus was saying he thought to himself, "I am just like that religious leader Jesus is speaking about. I'm trying to keep all the commandments. I am fasting, giving a tenth of all my money to God and offering sacrifices in the temple. This is not enough for me to be accepted by God?" Nicodemus wanted to talk to Jesus about this, but he was afraid of what the other religious leaders would say if he asked in front of everybody. One night when everybody was sleeping he went to meet with Jesus. Jesus knew Nicodemus and what he was thinking. Before Nicodemus had time to ask his questions Jesus said, "Nicodemus I know that you fear God and try to do everything in the right way, but that is not enough for you to be saved and accepted by God. No one can be saved from sin and see the kingdom of God unless He is born again." Nicodemus did not understand this so he asked, "How can anyone enter his mother's womb a second time to be born again?" Jesus answered, "It is not your body that has to be born again, but your spirit. Your sin has to be forgiven. You have to become a new person, clean from sin, on the inside. You have to be born again by the Spirit."

Now Nicodemus asked Jesus, "So how can this happen? How can the spirit be born again?" Jesus answered, "Do you remember when God sent poisonous snakes among the Israelites in the desert?" Nicodemus answered, "Yes I remember." Jesus said, "Just like the metal snake was lifted up on a pole, in the same way I have to be lifted up. Everyone that

looks at me and trusts only in me will be born again, forgiven of their sins and become a new person on the inside. Not only that, they will also be saved from the punishment of death for their sins. God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that whoever believes in Him will not die but have eternal life." Now Nicodemus had the answer to his questions and he went home believing what Jesus had told him. Other religious leaders did not accept Jesus' words like Nicodemus did. Instead they became very angry with Jesus. Listen to the next story and I will tell you what they did to Him.

# Story 19—Jesus Forgives and Heals

Most of the religious leaders did not like Jesus's teachings. They started to hate Jesus more and more. They started to try to make Jesus say things that they could accuse Him of. One day they brought a woman to Jesus and said, "This woman was caught in the act of adultery. The Law of Moses commands us to stone such a woman. Now what do you say?" Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger. When they kept on questioning Him, He stood up and said to them, "The one of you who has never sinned can throw the first stone at her." He sat down again. Those who heard Him began to drop the stones they were holding. They left one at a time until only Jesus was left with the woman. Now Jesus asked her, "Where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one." Jesus had forgiven her sins and made her a new person. She was born again. Jesus set her free from sin so she could go away and not sin anymore.

Another time Jesus was teaching in a home. Many people gathered and there was no room left for anyone to enter the house. Four men came carrying their paralyzed friend on a mat. They believed that Jesus was the Deliverer and He could heal their friend. When they realized that there was no way for them to get to Jesus, because of the crowd, they carried their friend up on the roof of the house. They made a hole in the roof and lowered down the paralyzed man into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw the faith of these men, He said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." There were a lot of religious leaders in the room and they began to think to themselves, "How can He say that? Only God can forgive sins." Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, "Why are you thinking like that? Which is

easier to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven or get up, take up your mat and walk?' But that you may know that I have authority to forgive sins, I say to this man, 'Get up, take your mat and go home.'"

Immediately the paralyzed man stood up in front of people, took up his mat and walked out in front of everyone. The people were amazed and began to praise God, "We have never seen anything like this!" Jesus had shown to everyone that He has the authority to forgive people their sin.

Another day Jesus was walking on a road and a big crowd was following Him. He was teaching them. They reached a place where a blind man, called Bartimaeus, was sitting by the roadside begging. Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming on the road. He began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Bartimaeus believed that Jesus was the Deliverer that God had promised David to be one of his descendants. Bartimaeus asked Jesus for mercy. He knew that he was a sinner and that he did not deserve to be healed. He trusted in Jesus as his Deliverer that He could heal him. Many were yelling at Bartimaeus saying, "Be quiet." Bartimaeus shouted even louder, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus really cared for Bartimaeus. He stopped and called Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus jumped up, threw off his robe and ran to Jesus. Jesus asked Him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus answered, "I want to see." Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." Immediately Bartimaeus received his sight and followed Jesus. His faith in Jesus made it possible for Jesus to forgive him of his sins and make him a new person and restore his sight.

Jesus healed many who, like Bartimaeus, trusted and believed in Jesus as their Deliverer. Greater than that was Jesus forgave people and

set them free from their sin. Jesus forgives everyone who admits they are sinners and trust in Him as their Deliverer.

# Story 20—The Disciples and the Good Shepherd

Jesus was walking around teaching the people that they had to repent from their sin and believe in Him to be saved. He forgave many people of their sins and healed people from sickness. Jesus did not only want to help people and forgive them their sins. He also wanted them to follow Him, be together with Him, get to know Him and become like Him. He called twelve people to be extra close to Him, to leave everything they had to follow Him, to live with and learn from Him. These twelve people He would later send out to tell others the good news that He was bringing. These twelve people were called Jesus's disciples. He called them from different places. For example, one day Jesus was walking beside a lake. He saw two brothers sitting in a boat together with their father preparing their nets. They were fishermen. When Jesus saw them He said to them, "Come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men." They both left their father in the boat and followed Jesus.

Jesus told the people that He was like a Good Shepherd. In this time in Israel, many of the Israelites were shepherds, keepers of the sheep. Just like many of you are keepers of cattle. The shepherd in those times lived with the sheep. If there was no grass to eat in the place the sheep were staying, the shepherd would be the one to move them to another place with plenty of grass. In the same way, Jesus wants to be the shepherd for everyone who believes in Him. He wants them to follow Him and always be led by Him. Jesus wanted to be their Shepherd who gives them peace and everything they need.

Jesus also said that He was like the door for the sheep. In Israel, when it was evening, the shepherd would make a fence of stone and wood in order to protect the sheep from wild animals. The shepherd

would sleep in the entranceway to the sheep pen. Anyone or anything that wanted to go in would have to first pass by the shepherd. The shepherd became the "door" to the pen of the sheep. The sheep had to pass by the shepherd. In the same way, Jesus is the door to everlasting life in heaven. Anyone who wants to be saved and receive everlasting life has come through Jesus. They have to believe only in Jesus. Anyone who believes in Jesus is also safe from all evil. Jesus will protect from the evil one, just like the shepherd protected the sheep from the wild animals. Jesus said that He was the same as a good shepherd. The good shepherd is always ready to die for his sheep. Jesus fulfilled this because He was willing to die for us. In the next story I will tell about more wonderful miracles that Jesus did.

# Story 21—The Demon Possessed Man and Lazarus

Jesus healed many sick people. He also freed many people from evil spirits. One day a man that was filled with demons came to Jesus. He was living among the caves. Many people had tried to tie him up with chains because he was a danger for himself and other people. The demons in him were so strong that they even broke iron chains. Often he would cry loudly and cut himself with stones.

When the man saw Jesus he ran to Him and fell down on his knees in front of Him. Jesus said, "Come out of him you evil spirit." The man shouted, "What do you want with me Jesus, Son of Most High God? Promise me that you will not torture me." The demons knew that Jesus was the Son of God. They feared that He would deal with them immediately by sending them to the everlasting fire. A large herd of pigs were feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Please send us into the pigs!" Jesus gave them permission, and the demons came out of the man and went into the pigs. There were many pigs and they all ran down the hillside into a lake and drowned. Many people now came from the city to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus they saw the man that had been possessed sitting there dressed and in his right mind. He was totally free and changed. Jesus had delivered him and given him peace with God. Jesus came to deliver mankind from Satan's power. Those who come to Jesus never have to live in the kingdom of Satan anymore. Jesus has all the power over Satan.

Jesus had a friend named Lazarus. One day Lazarus got very sick and his sisters sent a message for Jesus. When Jesus received the message He told His disciples it was an opportunity for God to be glorified. Jesus

waited for two days. Then He said to the His disciples, "Now Lazarus is dead let us go to him." Jesus was far away and no one told Him what had happened, but still He knew what had happened.

When Jesus and His disciples arrived to the village Lazarus had already been in the grave for four days. One of Lazarus's sisters met Jesus on the road. She said, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died." Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again." She answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection day." Jesus had taught them that one day the dead would be risen and everybody would be judged before God's throne. Jesus was not speaking of this day. He meant He would raise Lazarus immediately. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Everyone who believes in Me will live forever. Do you believe this?" She answered, "Yes I believe You are Christ, the Son of God." They went together to Lazarus's grave.

There were many people there crying. Jesus felt sorry for them and was sad when they cried. He also wept. He told them to take away the stone that covered the entrance to the grave. They did. Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed so everyone could hear, "Father I thank You that You have heard Me. I know You always hear Me." He called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus come out!" Lazarus stood up and came out from the grave. He was covered with the linens that they covered dead people. Jesus told the people to take off the linens from Lazarus. Many people saw how Jesus woke Lazarus up from the dead and believed in Jesus. They believed He had power over death, was the resurrection, and could give them eternal life.

# Story 22—The Samaritan Woman and the Bread Miracle

One day Jesus and His disciples were walking through an area called Samaria. The people who lived there were called Samaritans. The Israelites hated the Samaritans. These two tribes were always fighting with each other. They would not go through each other's land or drink from their wells. It was just like with the Borena and some of your neighboring tribes. Jesus was not like other people. He walked through the Samaritan land. When He became thirsty He sat down by one of their wells. A Samaritan woman came to the well. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." The woman replied to Jesus, "You are an Israelite. How can you talk to me and ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?"

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who I am, you would have instead asked Me and I would have given you living water." She asked, "You have nothing to draw water with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks the water from this well will be thirsty again. Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Instead, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water, bubbling up to eternal life." The woman said to Jesus, "Give me some of this water so that I won't have have to keep coming to this well to draw."

Jesus told her, "Go call your husband and come back." She replied, "I have no husband." Jesus said, "You are right. I know that you've had five husbands and the man you live with now is not your husband." The woman was amazed that Jesus knew all about her. He knew that she had many husbands and none of them had been able to give her what she was longing and thirsting for. She understood that Jesus had not

come to give her another husband. He had come to quench her thirst, set her free from sin, and give her eternal life. She understood that Jesus was sent by God. She told Him, "I know the Deliverer is coming. I'm waiting for Him." Jesus said, "I am the Deliverer." Then the woman believed in Jesus. She left her waterpot and ran back to tell the people in the town. She said, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did. I think He is the Deliverer." Many of the Samaritans believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony. They said, "We know that this man really is the Deliverer of the world."

People came from all over Israel to hear Jesus teach and to see His miracles. Many large crowds would gather around Him. One day when Jesus was teaching, He saw that the people were hungry. He asked His disciples, "Where can we get food for all these people?" One of His disciples answered, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of bread and two small fish, but it could never be enough for so many people." There were more than 5,000 people there. Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." He took the bread and fish, gave thanks to God for the food and the bread and fish multiplied in Jesus's hands. He gave out to all the people as much as they wanted. When they all had enough to eat, Jesus' disciples gathered the left over food. They filled twelve baskets with it. After that many followed Jesus only because He had given them food. They did not believe they needed Him to deliver them from the punishment of sin, which is death. Jesus told them, "You are following Me just because I gave you food for your bodies, but you need to receive bread for your soul that will give you eternal life. I am the bread of life who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Whoever believes in me will never die, but have eternal life."

Jesus came to give people eternal life, the water of life and bread of life. Some believed and received it, but some did not believe and they continued in their sin. Jesus did a lot of miracles, but there was another even greater thing Jesus was about to do. Listen to the next story to hear what it is.

# Story 23—The Last Supper

The people had seen Jesus do many miracles. The people had forgotten Jesus was the Deliverer that would deliver them from their sin. Many people only believed Jesus was the great king that would come and wanted Him to become their king. The prophets said the new king would enter Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, riding on a donkey. When the people saw Jesus one day riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, they spread their clothes on the road. All the people praised Him as their new king the prophets had spoken of. When the religious leaders saw how the people were praising Jesus, they became angry and tried to find a way to kill Him. The prophets had said the Deliverer would suffer, die, and rise again. Jesus knew this was going to happen. He told His disciples and the people, "I must suffer a lot and be rejected. I must be killed, but after three days I will rise again." The people and the disciples could not understand. Many people left Jesus when they heard this. How could He become the new king if He would die?

Now the time of year came to celebrate the Passover. Jesus and His disciples went to eat the Passover dinner. When they were eating, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples. He explained to them just as the bread had been broken, so His body would soon be broken for many. Jesus took the cup of wine, gave it to them and told them that just as the wine was poured, so His blood would be poured out for many people's sins. Jesus stood up from the meal, poured water into a basin and started to wash the disciples's feet. Jesus told them, "I do this to show you how much I love you. From now on I do not call you My servants, but you are My friends. As My Father loves Me, so I love you. I love you so much that I am ready to die for

you. My commandment to you is that as I love you, so you have to love one another."

One of the disciples named Judas was there planning to betray Jesus. Jesus knew this. He said, "One of you will betray Me." This surprised the disciples a lot. Jesus turned to Judas and said, "Go and do what you plan to do." Judas went out to the religious leaders to tell them where Jesus was, so they could arrest Him that night. The religious leaders gave Judas 30 pieces of silver for doing this.

After Judas had left, Jesus said to the rest of the disciples: "I am now going to leave you to go to My Father in heaven. When I go there I will not leave you alone. I will send the Holy Spirit. He will be with you and live inside you. He will teach you and remind you of everything I have said. He will give you peace. You don't have to worry or be afraid. Now I am going to My Father and in His house are many rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you. One day I will come back and take you there with Me. I am the way to that place. No one comes to the Father except through Me." One day Jesus will come and bring everyone who believes in Him to heaven. Jesus later showed one of His disciples what heaven will look like. That disciple said that in heaven there will be no more sorrow, tears, sickness, or death. There will be no sun, because God Himself will be there shining brighter than the sun. Just like the Garden of Eden, the tree of life will be there and we will eat from it and live forever. Jesus, the Lamb of God, will be our Shepherd. He will lead us to springs of living water and we will live forever together with God in perfect peace. After this, Jesus and His disciples stood up and went out together. Jesus was now about to do something very special and important. Listen to the next story and I will tell you what happened.

# Story 24—Jesus Arrested and Crucified

After Jesus and His disciples had eaten, they went out to a garden called Gethsemane. There Jesus started to pray. He was very distressed and troubled, even sweating blood, because He knew what He was about to do was a very difficult thing. Now the religious leaders were coming together with Judas to arrest Him. Jesus rose up to meet them. When Judas saw Jesus, he went and kissed Him. This was the sign to show which one was Jesus. They arrested Jesus and all of His disciples fled away from Him. No one stayed with Him.

In the darkness, they brought Jesus to the High Priest. There all the religious leaders tried to find something to accuse Jesus, but they could not find anything. Jesus hadn't done anything wrong. Finally, the High Priest asked Jesus, "Are you Christ, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "I am and you will see Me sitting at the right side of God in heaven." The High Priest tore his clothes and said, "He has made Himself equal to God. He deserves to die." They all condemned Him that He should be put to death. They were not allowed to kill anyone without permission from those who were ruling the country. Early the next morning, they took Jesus to the governor.

When the religious leaders arrived with Jesus, they pointed to Jesus and said, "This man is against you. He claims He is our new king." The governor asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Israelites?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is as you say. But My kingdom is not of this world." After questioning Jesus, the governor said to the people, "This man has done nothing to deserve death. It is our custom to release one prisoner every year at the Passover. Do you want me to release Jesus?" All of the religious leaders and the people that were there started to shout they

wanted the other man, who was a cruel murderer, to be released instead. The governor asked, "So what shall I do with Jesus?" They all shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Crucifying someone was the most terrible and painful way to kill someone. This was what they wanted to do to Jesus. They wanted to kill Him even though He had never done anything wrong. They had forgotten how He had healed the sick and done many good things. Now they were just shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Finally the governor could not resist them anymore so he decided to crucify Jesus.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus and beat Him until His back was all torn apart. The soldiers mocked Jesus and put a crown of thorns on His head. They forced Him to carry His cross to the place where He was going to be crucified. There they crucified Him. The soldiers drove nails through Jesus's hands and feet into the wooden cross. This was just like the prophets had said about the Deliverer, that His hands and feet would be pierced. They lifted up the cross so that Jesus was hung upon the cross. Do you remember that Jesus told Nicodemus, as Moses lifted up the snake on the pole in the desert, so Jesus, the Deliverer, had to be lifted up so that sinners could be saved from punishment?

Now Jesus was hanging, bleeding and suffering on the cross. Jesus looked at the people who crucified Him and prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Jesus loved the people so much. He even loved the ones who were killing Him and forgave them for the sin they did.

# Story 25—Jesus's Death

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, the people around Him insulted Him. They said, "He saved others, but He can't save Himself. If You are Christ, come down from the cross, then we can believe in You." Jesus had all the power. It would not have been difficult for Him to step down from the cross, but He did not. Why did He not do that? Because there was something much greater He was about to do.

Suddenly, darkness came over the whole land and it was completely dark for three hours. Jesus cried in a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" God turned away from Jesus and left Him alone, because Jesus was taking our punishment for sin. He was separated from God instead of us, so we can be forgiven and brought back to God. Jesus then cried out in a loud voice, "It is finished." He breathed His last breath and died. Jesus finished the work of delivering sinners from Satan, sin, and death, by being separated from God and dying as the full payment for our sins.

In the moment when Jesus breathed His last breath and died, there was a great earthquake and the curtain in the temple that was hanging before the Most Holy Place where God lived was torn into two pieces from top to bottom. God tore this curtain apart. This curtain had been separating the people from God. Now God wanted to show that Jesus had opened the way to God. No one would have to be separated from God anymore. God also wanted to show that there was no need for the High Priest to continue bringing the blood of animals through this curtain into the Most Holy Place every year. Jesus's blood was enough and had completely paid the price for sins for all eternity, both past and future. Jesus died instead of us because of our sins just like the

animals that were sacrificed at the Tabernacle died instead of the Israelites because of their sins.

When the people saw Him die, felt the earthquake, and heard what He had said, the leader over the soldiers said, "Surely this man was the Son of God." Among the people, there was a religious leader that had secretly believed in Jesus. He took down Jesus's body, wrapped it in linen and put it in a grave built as a cave. He put a big stone in the entrance to the grave, so no one could enter. Soldiers were put there to guard the grave so Jesus's disciples could not come and steal the body. Now everybody thought it was finished. Jesus had died and could come back again. Listen to the next story and I will tell you what happened.

# Story 26—Jesus's Resurrection

Now Jesus was in the grave and everybody thought it was now over with Jesus. Do you remember what Jesus said would happen? He said He would rise again after three days. Three days after Jesus had been buried there was another earthquake. An angel came down from heaven and rolled away the stone to the grave. When the soldiers guarding the grave saw the earthquake and the angel, they were terrified and became like dead men. At the same time, some women that had been followers of Jesus were on their way to the grave to anoint Jesus's body. On their way they asked, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance for us?" When they arrived, they saw the large stone already had been rolled away. They entered the grave and saw a man dressed in a white robe sitting there. They were terrified. The man was an angel. The angel told them, "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. Look, here is the place where they laid Him. Now, go tell His disciples what has happened." God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus had finished paying the punishment for our sins. He had been separated from God and died. Now God was satisfied with the punishment Jesus paid; therefore, He was released from death and rose again. Jesus had told His followers many times He would die, but that He would rise again after three days. His followers had not understood this. They were not expecting Him to rise again. Therefore, these women were very surprised and ran away from the grave terrified. The soldiers also ran away. They told the religious leaders all that had happened. The religious leaders gave them a lot of money. They told the soldiers, "Don't tell anybody what happened. Instead say Jesus's disciples stole His body while you were sleeping."

Some days after Jesus had risen, He showed Himself to His disciples. Jesus said to them: "In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. I will send Him to you. When He comes upon you, you will receive power to go to the whole world and tell them about Me. For this is My command to you and to everyone who believes in Me, you shall go into all the world and tell everyone the good news that I died for their sins and rose again. Everyone that trusts in Me that I died for their sins will be forgiven and saved from Satan, sin and death. Everyone who does not believe in Me will remain under Satan's power and go with him to the lake of fire. When you go to tell this, I will be with you always to the very end of the age. These signs will follow you. You will speak in new tongues, heal the sick and drive out demons."

After Jesus said this, He was taken up into heaven before their eyes until they could not see Him anymore. While they were looking up into the sky to see Him, two angels appeared beside them. They said, "Why are you looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will one day come back in the same way from heaven." That day, He will judge the whole earth. He will throw all those who do not believe into the lake of fire. Everyone who believed in Jesus gathered together, prayed and waited for the Holy Spirit to come. Just like Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came and filled them all. They were filled with power. Immediately, they obeyed Jesus's command and went out into all the world to tell the good news about Jesus. Still today, people are going all over the world telling the good news. God is working with them confirming His words by signs and miracles that follow them. Next time, I will tell you more about why Jesus had to die.

# Story 27—Looking Back into the Old Testament—Part I

Today I want to go through the stories I told up to now to show you God's message to us through these stories. Do you remember when I told you about Adam and Eve? They had a wonderful life in the Garden of Eden. They were in relationship with God. They were His friends. There was no sickness, sin, hate, or fights. When Adam and Eve sinned, they and all their descendants were separated from God. Satan became their king and they were all going to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. God gave a promise to Adam and Eve He would one day send a Deliverer. God said the Deliverer would crush Satan and bring mankind back into relationship with God. This is what Jesus did when He died on the cross and rose again. He crushed Satan's power, because everyone who believes in Jesus will not be under Satan's power anymore. They will become the children of God. They will have the same relationship as Adam and Eve had with God before they sinned.

Do you remember when I told you about Noah? All the people were sinners and deserved to die. The people on earth today are not better. We are also all sinners and deserve death like the people in Noah's time. We are all on our way to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. In Noah's time God prepared a way for people to be saved from the flood. To be saved from the flood, people had to believe God's message, admit they were sinners who deserved to be punished and enter into the ark, the big boat, Noah was building. There was no other way to be saved. Everybody that did not believe and enter the boat died. Just like there was only one way to be saved from the flood, there is only one way to be saved from everlasting punishment. That is to believe God's message,

admit you are a sinner and believe in Jesus and His death for you. Jesus is just like the boat. He is the only way prepared by God to be saved from everlasting punishment, like the boat was the only way prepared to be saved from the flood.

Do you remember when I told you about Abraham? Abraham had just tied Isaac to the altar and was about to kill him, but God stopped Him. Even though Isaac deserved to die, God provided a perfect lamb to die instead of Isaac. Do you remember what John said about Jesus? He said Jesus was the Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world. Just like the lamb died instead of Isaac because of his sin, Jesus died instead of us because of our sins. Next time I will tell more about why Jesus had to die.

# Story 28—Looking Back into the Old Testament—Part II

Do you remember when I told you about the Passover? God was going to send punishment over the Egyptians for their disobedience to God. All their firstborns would die. There was only one way the Israelites could be saved from this punishment so their firstborns would not die. They were to take a perfect lamb, kill it, and let the blood flow out. They were to take this blood and put it on their doorposts. Just like the lamb's blood flowed out to save the Israelites's firstborns, Jesus's blood flowed out to pay for our sins and save us from death. The Israelites could not just kill the lamb and let the blood flow out. They had to take the blood and put it on their doorposts. They had to stay inside that house. They had to trust and believe they would be saved because of the blood on the doorposts. In the same way we cannot just admit we are sinners and know Jesus died for our sins. We have to personally trust only in Jesus and His blood for our salvation from sin and death.

Do you remember when I told you about the Tabernacle? God prepared a way for the Israelites in which they could come to God and be forgiven of their sins. They had to build the Tabernacle. Every year the High Priest had to kill an animal and bring the blood to God in the Most Holy Place. The blood of animals could not pay for sin completely. It could only hold off the judgment for the last year. Do you remember God said Jesus would be the Final High Priest? When Jesus died He went to God in the real Tabernacle in heaven. The Tabernacle the Israelites built was only a copy of the real one in heaven. Jesus did not bring the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place in heaven, but He brought His own blood. His blood was the perfect payment for sin.

It could take away all the sins of the world. After this no other High Priest was needed and no more animals had to be killed. God showed this by tearing the curtain in the Temple when Jesus died.

Do you remember when I told you about the snake on the pole? God sent poisonous snakes among the Israelites, because they had grumbled against Him. When the Israelites repented, God made a way for them to be saved. God told Moses to make a metal snake and hang it on a pole. Everyone who looked on the snake was healed. It was not enough for the Israelites to pray to God to forgive them their sins and take away the snakes. They had to believe in this way God had prepared for them to be saved. They had to obey God and simply look at the snake. Jesus told Nicodemus that in the same way the snaked was lifted up so He also would be lifted up. This happened when Jesus was lifted up on the cross. All that looked to Him and trusted only in Him would be saved from everlasting punishment. Just like the Israelites in the desert, it is not enough you admit you are a sinner and pray to God to forgive you. You also have to trust in the way God has prepared for you. You have to look to and trust only in Jesus and His death for you.

# Story 29—Your Decision

Through these stories I told you about a lot of people who believed in God. I told you about Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others. They all admitted they were sinners. They believed they deserved to die. They also trusted in the Deliverer, God said would come. Therefore, God forgave them their sin and saved them from everlasting punishment. There has been and will always be only one way to be saved from sin, separation from God and everlasting punishment; You have to believe like Abel, Noah, Abraham, and Moses you are a sinner who deserves the punishment of death. You have to believe in the Deliverer, Jesus, who died instead of you so your sins could be forgiven.

Some of you may think, "This was a good story, but I want to think about it and decided later if I am going to believe Jesus is my Deliverer." I want you to listen to the story I am now going to tell you.

One day when Jesus was still here on earth, He told the people this story about the lake of fire. He said: "There was a rich man who dressed in very nice clothes. He lived in luxury every day, but at his gate laid a beggar named Lazarus. He was suffering a lot. He was covered with sores the dogs used to come and lick. He was hungry and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Finally the beggar died and angels carried him to Abraham's side in heaven. The rich man died, but he did not go to heaven. He went to the lake of fire. There he was suffering a lot. When he looked up, he saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.

"So, he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool my tongue, because I am

suffering a lot.' Abraham replied, 'Son, remember in your lifetime you received good things while Lazarus received bad things. Now he is comforted here and you are suffering. Between us and you there is a great chasm. No one can go from here to you and no one can go from where you are to us.'

"The suffering man said, 'I beg you, send Lazarus to my father's house to my five brothers. Let him warn them so they will not come to this terrible place.' Abraham replied, 'Your brothers have the writings of Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' 'No, father Abraham,' the man begged, 'if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Abraham said to him, 'If your brothers do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Jesus told this story to warn us. We don't know when it will be our last day. We don't know if we will live tomorrow. One day we will all die and face judgment and then it is too late to decide if we will believe in Jesus as our Deliverer. Each one of us must listen to the story of God, Moses and the prophets wrote down. This is the story we have now told you, the story about the Deliverer. Each one of us must decide in this life if we will believe in Jesus as our Deliverer or not. After we die, we can't change our situation or help others in our family.

God has given you this day an opportunity to decide if you will believe in Jesus as your Deliverer. What is your decision? Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that He died for your sins and is the only way you can be saved? (If the answer is yes) God says that all your sins are forgiven. You are not under Satan's power anymore, but you have

become the child of God. When you die, you will not go to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. You will live forever in heaven with God.

# Covenant

**Mission One Eleven exists for the sole purpose of reaching the unreached and unengaged with the gospel of Jesus Christ. One chance for every person remains the vision and heart of everything Mission One Eleven does. We also believe it is the purpose of the church to fulfill Christ's last commandment to reach all peoples and all nations. As a movement, we want to partner with churches to fulfill the commission of Christ and reach those in need of the gospel.**

As a partner with Mission One Eleven, we want to make an agreement, or a covenant, with God and each other; a covenant to hold true to the vision and purpose of Mission One Eleven. As God directs your church and your Mission One Eleven campus to raise up new missionaries and send teams out onto the field, we ask that you agree to keep the heart of Mission One Eleven at the focal point: to reach the unreached.

We believe reaching the unreached is the task of the Local Church and Mission One Eleven desires to serve churches as they take up the assignment to reach our world. In this partnership, we are not selling Mission One Eleven or adding any requirements. Instead, we give Mission One Eleven to the church and only ask in return that you take this DNA to reach the lost by partnering with us and our global networks.

## Mission One Eleven's Core Values are:

1. We believe in one chance for every person; it is the birthright that every person, from every tribe, language, and people group, is presented with the chance to hear the gospel at least once. We take on the assignment and go to the end of the earth in order to do so.

2. We are a young adult led movement with a shared understanding of the assignment and know the importance of storytelling. We are local church owned and driven to fulfilling the assignment to reach the unreached.

3. We identify ourselves as part of Mission One Eleven and maintain Biblical integrity as a movement.

4. We deploy into the field under the direction of the Mission One Eleven Headquarters. To maintain relationships with our field affiliates and partners, all field travel and work is organized through Mission One Eleven Headquarters.

5. We reap and we sow. As God blesses our churches and our schools, we bless others as they find their journey. We commit to invest and encourage those called to serve God by reaching the unreached so that they may fulfill the assignment imparted to them.

Upon partnering with Mission One Eleven, you are agreeing to hold true to the values and heart of this organization, and above all, the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Why we do what we do!

First Problem: The World Status

Out of 7 Billion People



33% of the world is Christian




38% of the world Has Access but has chosen not to follow Jesus




29% of the world has never heard of Jesus




## A

### 33% Identify themselves as Christians.

However, not all of those follow Christ because :
of a nominal belief or relationship with Christ
the country identifies itself as Christian

## B

### 38% Has Access to the Gospel

But have chosen not to follow Jesus:
They have churches nearby
The bible is readily available
they have access to christian resources

## C

### 29% Have never heard the name of Jesus

No Chance because:
No Access to the Gospel
No Bibles
No Churches
No believers nearby

Problem 2: Missionaries

## There are 400,000 Missionaries worldwide




72% of Missionaries go to people that have Bibles and Churches.




25 % of missionaries go to people who have some access to the Gospel, churches and bibles




3 % of missionaries go to people in which they have had not One Chance to Hear the Gospel and have never heard about Jesus

Problem 3: Finances

of the $700 Billion Given to Christian Ministries

and of that $45 Billion is given to Missions (a little over 6%)
and here's how that breaks down.

87%
$39 Billion
goes to established churches and orginzations that serve reached people




12%
**$5.4 Billion**
goes to people that have Bibles and Churches.




1%
$450 Million
is spent on unreached or under reached groups




This is less than what

Americans spent on Holloween Costumes
for their

PETS!

So we believe that the problem isn't the numbers.

It's just the numbers are in the Wrong places.



# Open a Training Center at your church!

In four simple steps you can start and run your own Mission One Eleven Training Center!

**Step 1**. Sign the covenant with Mission One Eleven. This is just an agreement between you, us, and God to remain true to the vision and heart of reaching the unreached.

**Step 2.** Contact your Mission One Eleven Representative to receive your Mission One Eleven School in a Box, everything you need to launch your own campus.

**Step 3.** Once your School Box arrives, look through it and see what's inside.

**Step 4.** Contact your Mission One Eleven Representative to plan out your campus launch timeline.

Are you ready?

Call 1-800-745-1332
and launch your own
Mission One Eleven Training Center

# ONE=ELEVEN

VOLUME 2



## Remembering Our friend Hendrick

*A personal note from Karl Hargestam*

## New Frontiers

*In Pakistan and Madagascar*

## Are we living in Comfortable Captivity?

*Can you Make history and still stay in one place?*

# WHERE ARE WE ?

*Our Executive Director- talks motivation, identity, and future*

# THE ASSIGNMENT

## AN EXCITING NEW REALITY TV SHOW

Get a glimpse into a pioneer mission field and experience adventure, danger and the miraculous hand of God. Ten strangers with a desire to reach the lost are dropped into a foreign and exotic land with limited supplies and knowledge. Travel with the team and share in the victories and frustrations. Watch as they learn to rely on each other and on God.

## WILL THEY REACH THEIR ASSIGNMENT?

***Now playing on TBN's JCTV***
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## JOSHUA PUBLISHING & MEDIA

# The Assignment TV Show




***It's hard to believe that in a world so wired and inter-connected, there are still places where people have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.***

"The Assignment" reality television show allows the viewer a glimpse into a pioneer mission field, in which they experience adventure, danger and the miraculous hand of God. Strangers brought together, with a desire to reach the lost, are dropped into a foreign and exotic land with minimal supplies and resources. The viewer travels with teams and shares in the victories, frustrations, and watches as the teams learn to rely on each other and on God.

Will they reach their "Assignment?"

We have nixed the pretense of shiny religiosity and written scripts in order to capture real
people on a real mission. It offers adventure, extreme and exotic conditions, and real people in various conflicts.

But more than anything, "The Assignment" demonstrates how ordinary people can do extraordinary things; even in remote and isolated villages.

Currently airing in North America and in Europe and is also available on Blu-ray disc








Whether it's books or magazines, Joshua Campaign is interested in communicating the message "that there are still more than 3,400 unreached people groups in the world that have yet to hear the Gospel."

Available on Amazon Books



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